Local Government Service

No. 4 APRIL, 1931 Vol. XIV

JOINT BODIES: THEIR FUTURE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

By F. E. WARBRECK HOWELL

Town Clerk, Manchester

I HAVE been asked to follow up the article, "The Local Government Officer of the Future," by Sir William Hart, which appeared in the January issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE. I propose to deal more particularly with the development of Joint Bodies.

There are various enactments authorising the establishment of joint organisations, of which the following are perhaps the most important :—

(*a*) *Public Health Act*, 1875, *Sect.* 279, which authorises union for the purposes mentioned in the section. It is in pursuance of this provision that many joint boards have been established for water supply, main sewerage, hospitals and other purposes.

(*b*) *Local Government Act*, 1888, *Sect.* 14, which enables a joint committee or other body to be constituted to exercise the powers of a sanitary authority under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876. It was under this Section that the West Riding Rivers Board and other similar bodies were established.

(*c*) *Local Government Act*, 1894, *Sect.* 57, authorises parish and district councils to concur in appointing a joint committee for any purpose in respect of which they are jointly interested and enables powers to be conferred upon the committee which the appointing councils might exercise within their own districts.

(*d*) *The Town Planning Act*, 1925, *Sect.* 2, *and the Smoke Abatement Act*, 1926, *Sect.* 6, authorise the appointment of joint committees and apply the procedure of Sect. 57 of the Local Government Act, 1894. The power in relation to Town Planning has been freely used.

(*e*) *Joint Electricity Authorities* established in pursuance of the Electricity Supply Act, 1919, and *Catchment Boards* now being established by virtue of the Land Drainage Act, 1930, are among the latest developments of the policy of joint working.

In view of the wide range of duties for the performance of which it is possible to set up a joint organisation, framed as it can be to suit the varied circumstances of the locality, the reason why so few joint

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Mr. Howell was educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham, and was admitted a solicitor in 1914. A year later he was appointed Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Peace at Birmingham, and in 1919 went to Wolverhampton as Town Clerk and Clerk of the Peace. He first came to Manchester in 1926 as Solicitor to the West Midlands Joint Electricity Authority and was appointed Town Clerk in 1928. He is the Hon. Clerk of the Regional Planning Committee and Hon. Secretary to the Joint Town Planning Advisory Committee. Mr. Howell is a member of the Municipal Law Committee of the Association of Municipal Corporations; a member of the Ministry of Health Joint Standing Committee, and has served on other important committees.

organisations have been established calls for explanation. I think it is due to the reluctance of local authorities to part with any of their powers and duties which is so marked a feature in local government, and their objection, so frequently voiced, to the establishment of new bodies necessarily with new sets of officials.

There has also always existed the criticism that members of joint bodies are not directly elected and, therefore, are not directly answerable to the electors as the members of local authorities are. Mr. Herbert Morrison, the Minister of Transport, in connection with the proposed Public Trust for the co-ordination of London Passenger Transport said, "His own experience of joint authorities was that there was too much 'joint' and not enough 'authority' about them. If there had been a directly-elected municipal body already in existence the situation might have been different."

As Sir William Hart has pointed out, concurrently with legislation designed to unify the services in the hands of the larger authorities instanced by the transfer of the administration of the poor law to counties and county boroughs and the duties of overseers to the rating authorities, there is a tendency to increase the number of bodies charged with the execution of services of more than local concern. Examples of the latter are joint electricity authorities, regional town-planning authorities, the proposed London Transport Authority, and the proposed Smoke Abatement Authority for an area of approximately fifteen miles around Manchester.

COMMON INTEREST AREAS

The two clear principles upon which these tendencies are based are the combination of strictly local duties in the hands of local authorities, and the constitution of joint bodies for duties more conveniently exercised over a wider area. Such an area would be fixed by reference to present considerations of practical convenience and based upon a centre of common interest and easy access. Some of the services which such bodies could conveniently administer are town planning, hospitals, higher education, transport, fire protection, and water supply.

Whoever is familiar with administration in the more densely populated areas will not be ignorant of the difficulties which are caused by the endeavour to co-ordinate major services and to bring about agreement between local authorities who have a common interest in the carrying out of some particular duty. The almost interminable round of invitations to conferences, meetings, references back to committees of local authorities, renewed meetings and finally, if result is achieved at all, agreements necessitating in some cases Legislative or Departmental sanctions or orders, cause an amount of work and delay, the extent of which is only known to those who have suffered under the procedure. A joint organisation for handling for instance the transport of an area would get rid of this particular difficulty and would result in a common administrative policy for the area.

In respect of many services, it must be that apart from the saving of time

occupied in negotiations between adjoining authorities, a substantial saving in overhead charges and benefit in standardisation would result.

In large industrial areas the burden of work which is thrown upon members of local government authorities, is not only extremely heavy at the present time, but is, in fact, growing, and we are told that additional services such as the distribution of milk and coal are destined to be added to existing duties. There is, I think, no doubt that if local authorities are to have their work still further increased in respect of local matters, the relief which would result from the transfer to regional bodies of services regional in their character, would be beneficial.

There are many to-day well fitted to take their share in local government who shrink from joining councils in our industrial areas because of the volume of work. Some division of functions such as I have outlined would make it possible for a larger number of persons to devote themselves to the public service.

Regional Authorities

If these bodies should grow in number, it will probably be found that, to a greater or less extent, they will cover the same area. In time it is not unlikely that the recent tendency to consolidate services of a purely local character in the hands of existing local authorities may be followed, and services performed for wider areas by joint bodies may be consolidated in the hands of regional authorities. The area for each service administered by the Regional Authorities might not be exactly the same in detail, but this would not necessarily be objectionable. Such a development would emphasise one of the defects of joint bodies, namely the lack of direct responsibility to the electors.

One of the objections to separate *ad hoc* bodies if not directly elected by the ratepayers is financial. Each body as at present not having the power and duty of direct rating, calls upon its constituent authorities for its finances without regard to the calls of other bodies. There is considerable danger in a number of separate bodies each stressing the importance of its own particular function without having to consider the cumulative effect of its financial demands upon the ratepayer and without being directly answerable to the electors.

For this reason it would probably be found necessary to make provision for the direct election of members of regional authorities, instead of the existing system of nomination by local authorities.

Development of joint boards and regional authorities cannot take place without extending the opportunities of the local government officer by creating additional positions of responsibility and interest. It seems certain that whatever course may be taken there will be further development in the machinery of local government and that the prospects for the young Local Government Officer are very encouraging.

THE TOWN MANAGER

CASE AGAINST THE DUBLIN SYSTEM

By JONAS PRAPS

SOME time ago, when reading a letter on "Municipal Economy" in a local newspaper written in the customary strain, I was struck by the writer's vehemence—which equalled his ignorance. Not being a member of the town council, he knew exactly how many officials could be dispensed with, how cuts could be made in the salaries of the residue without the town's affairs suffering, and how the rates could be saved by thousands of pounds. Such an effusion would at one time have raised my ire; now risibility only is affected. The curious part of the letter was the reversion of view in the penultimate paragraph, where it was seriously suggested that a town manager should be appointed! The population of the town is less than 45,000. After raving about the excess of officials, this "Economist" suggested the appointment of an additional officer, with, of course, the necessary staff!

Possible Conflict

It is a little difficult to visualise the uses of a town manager. Doubtless a certain amount of co-ordination is possible and desirable. Officials working in unison, instead of at variance, can accomplish a good deal and N.A.L.G.O. has done more than any other association of officials to create the atmosphere leading to co-operative working. It is difficult to discern how a town manager can control effectively the work of departments with the inner working of which he cannot be *au fait*. For one man to master the details of management in every department is impossible and one can visualise scores of circumstances where the expert head of a department and the town manager would be in conflict. With powers such as the Dublin City Manager possesses the conflict would be of short duration and the battle to the strong. Is it not possible that with a town manager at the head of affairs a tendency would arise to minimise the status of heads of other departments, with a resultant deduction in scales of pay? These thoughts arise on reading a recent article in Local Government Service. Although the method of administration there outlined is peculiar to two places in Ireland, local government officers and N.A.L.G.O. will need to keep a watchful eye upon developments of a like nature this side the Irish Sea.

Of all places Dublin presents, perhaps, the most difficulties in the way of a satisfactory system of self-government. But a dictatorship of the sort which is outlined by your Special Correspondent is a menace to the best traditions of the service. In the first place the councillors appear to be reduced to mere puppets—a set of robots would be quite as useful, if not so ornamental. True, they have the power of making a rate; but I take it the rate will be based on figures prepared by the Borough Treasurer, who performs his duties under "the direction of the manager." Who, then, actually makes the rate but the City Manager? There are many occasions in the life of a chief officer when, feeling that the member of the council has too much authority, he would welcome power such as that which is vested in the Dublin City Manager. But to reduce elected representatives to the status of puppets is not in the best interests of local government.

A Dictatorship

My purpose is not to defend the councillor—he can usually look after himself—but to deal with the position as it concerns the officials. The most serious objection to the arrangement is the opportunity it affords for dictatorship and oppression. If the City Manager decides that an official is not needed, or that he is incapable of performing his duties, that officer ceases to hold office and has no ground of appeal. This is certainly un-English.

An Association like N.A.L.G.O. would be of no service under such conditions unless the City Manager were N.A.L.G.O. I submit that for one man to have authority for the appointment or removal of officers and servants is calculated on the one hand to lead to bribery and favouritism in its worst form, while on the other it lays open the opportunity for acts of malice, ill-will and tyranny; without what is now granted even to murderers—the right of appeal. To whom could the officer appeal under this Irish constitution? As your correspondent says, "The City Manager *is* the Corporation." As an official I rejoice that the Act does not give him the right to order an officer to be executed.

As to security of tenure! This has long been a plank in our platform, but fixity of office such as the Dublin City Manager enjoys is beyond our dreams. The unfortunate part is that he alone enjoys it. Were such security general we might realise another N.A.L.G.O. hope—an Association with all the chief officials in membership—but where would be the rest!

What are the advantages to be gained by subordinating the heads of departments to a town manager? In my view the development of local government on the lines of the Dublin scheme would not be in the best interests of the service.

VETERINARY SERVICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

By HUGH BEGG, F.R.C.V.S.

County Veterinary Inspector, Lanarkshire.

VETERINARY officers for the Local Government Service are necessarily recruited from persons who have obtained their qualifications outside the service. The Diploma of Membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (M.R.C.V.S.) is the basic qualification, which confers the right to practise. Students are educated at one or other of five Veterinary Colleges in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, London and Dublin, all affiliated to the Royal College, which is the governing body and not a teaching institution. Examinations, held twice yearly in July and December, are partly written and partly oral and practical.

Membership of the Royal College qualifies for whole- or part-time posts in the Local Government Veterinary Service and many officers of repute have no higher diploma. In order to encourage advanced study and specialisation by younger graduates the Royal College provides two higher diplomas, the Fellowship (F.R.C.V.S.) and the Diploma in Veterinary State Medicine (D.V.S.M.).

To attain Fellowship the member must have been qualified for at least two years, be not less than twenty-three years of age and submit a thesis of at least 10,000 words on the results of original research or observation on one or other of nine important subjects.

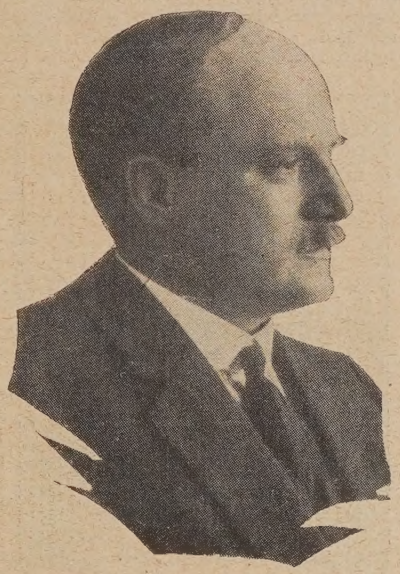
Diploma Examination

Before a member can submit himself for examination for the Diploma in Veterinary State Medicine he must have attended a College where higher subjects are taught from October to July and have received instruction for a specified number of weeks in each subject. Further, he must have been engaged for fifteen weeks on veterinary inspection in a State Department, county council, or urban authority.

Degree courses for B.Sc., B.V.Sc., and D.V.H., uncontrolled by the Royal College, are provided at various Universities in collaboration with the local veterinary school.

The Diseases of Animals and Public Health Acts have stimulated local authorities to appoint whole-time veterinary officers. Until twenty-one years ago the only whole-time veterinary officers in the Local Government Service were those engaged by a few important municipalities, their duties being concerned chiefly with the inspection of meat and markets, the care of studs of horses and such control of milk supplies as was then considered expedient. Their numbers have been augmented through the appointment of whole-time, in place of part-time, officers.

At the end of 1930 there were in England twenty municipal authorities employing twenty-one chief and eighteen assistant whole-time veterinary officers; in Scotland five Burghs with five chief officers and seven assistants. Wales and Northern Ireland have each one city with one veterinary officer, while two cities in the Irish Free State employ two chief and nine assistant officers, a total of sixty-four whole-time officers for the British Isles. The veterinary service in other towns is carried out by local practitioners appointed by the town councils.



HUGH BEGG, F.R.C.V.S.

Mr. Hugh Begg, the eldest son in a family of thirteen, upon leaving school at the age of thirteen entered his father's smithy. At seventeen he became a student at the Glasgow Veterinary College. Later as a double medallist, he was appointed assistant to Professor McCall. For years his spare time was occupied in shoeing horses in the family smithy. He went on to the Parish Council and was a member of the School Board. In May, 1910, Mr. Begg was appointed County Veterinary Inspector for Lanark, and was the first whole-time county veterinary officer in Great Britain. He took his fellowship degree in 1912, and subsequently acted as examiner of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons for seventeen consecutive years and is at the present time examiner of the Liverpool University for the higher diploma of D.V.H. and B.V.Sc., and examiner in meat inspection for the Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland. He is the author of numerous papers and text books.

Reference must be made to the system in the counties. The advent of the whole-time county veterinary officer was in 1910, the writer being appointed by the Lanark County Council. After a few years appointments were made in Scotland and in more recent years the English county authorities adopted a similar practice. In Great Britain twenty-seven county authorities employ the whole-time services of sixty-four veterinary officers, a number undesignedly equal to that of the whole-time urban veterinary officers; together the total is 128 veterinary officers wholly engaged in the Local Government Service

Statistics are not available regarding the part-time veterinary officers employed by municipal or county authorities but there must be several hundreds. Moreover while in some counties the whole-time Officer undertakes all veterinary work required by the local authority, in many cases his work is confined to the inspection of dairy herds and the requirements of the Tuberculosis Order, all other duties under the Diseases of Animals Acts being carried out by part-time men who may or may not be acting under his control. Where only part-time men are employed their numbers also have been increased owing to new responsibilities under recent legislation.

Many local authorities are notoriously apathetic in fulfilling their obligations under important orders which intimately concern public health and it is difficult to understand the toleration of the Central Authorities. The time of their awakening will come when the public realise that in so far as they fail by their negligence to undertake an efficient veterinary service they do not afford the public protection from communicable diseases, while stock-owners are denied the assistance they require in the proper control and eradication of infectious diseases in their dairy herds.

Whole-time Officers

Without desire to discuss the propriety, or to speed the coming of a wide-spread whole-time Local Government Veterinary Service, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that further appointments of whole-time officers will be made.

The emoluments of the Local Government Veterinary Officer are satisfactory and are not declining. Several Chief Veterinary Officers of Municipalities receive well over £1,000 per annum while many Chief County Veterinary Officers have a salary little short of £1,000 with expenses. Junior assistants start in the region of £400 per annum. Whole-time appointments are much sought after although yielding less—much less—than first-class practices. Many distinguished graduates are devoting a full year to post-graduate study in order to gain higher diplomas.

The outlook for the Local Government Veterinary Service is not less than bright. Its future will have a profound bearing on the control of animal disease and the protection of public health. One fears that as yet very few veterinary officers are members of N.A.L.G.O. and it almost seems an anachronism that the writer should have been a member for so long and privileged to hold high office in the Association. He can only plead the appealing merit of its many high objectives. District organising secretaries would do well to exhibit the Association's claims to veterinary officers throughout the country.

EDUCATION

THE fascinating design which appears on this page will become familiar to members of the Association before the Summer School is held at Oriel College this year. It will be used as a general poster and will appear in connection with many of the School advertisements. At one and the same time it illustrates the majestic architecture of the Colleges and the dreamy laziness of the river with the trees, which are in league with it, to charm the visitor to Oxford. In this atmosphere the Nalgo Summer School will deal generally with the movement of the Local Government Service from being a controlling factor in civic life to an organisation rendering service.

Past students will welcome Dr. W. A. Robson, who is to open the school during the first few days. He will be followed by his colleague at the London School of Economics, Mr. W. Ivor Jennings, whose books on the Local Government Act, and the Poor Law Code are already well known. In the second week, lecturers well known in the Universities of Manchester and Liverpool will attend. The full syllabus of lectures and the enrolment form are now ready and can be obtained from Branch Secretaries, Education Correspondents, or from the General Secretary at the Headquarters of the Association.

Conditions of enrolment are similar to those of last year—the fee for members of the Association who attend for both weeks is £1 1s. In the case of those who attend for one week only the fee is 10s. 6d. In addition, there are College dues, amounting to 10s. 6d. per day. Apart from this there is very little expense except for a few excursions and purely personal requirements. Those who think of attending the School should send in their forms before June 30, but as accommodation this year is limited to about seventy-five sleeping in the College, it is advisable to enrol as early as possible.

With regard to the Scottish Summer School at St. Andrew's University, particulars of the syllabus are now available and can be obtained from the Divisional Organising Secretary for Scotland, Mr. J. M. Mortimer, 135 Wellington Street, Glasgow.

SUMMER SCHOOL PRIZE

THE Ministry of Health has on many occasions given the Association tokens of its regard, but none has been so generous as that recently conferred by Sir Arthur Robinson, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry. It will be remembered that Sir Arthur attended the first Nalgo Summer School at Keble College last year and delivered the opening oration. Sir Arthur was very much impressed by the keenness of those students who were present and by the very obvious sincerity running through the proceedings. Sir Arthur wishes to associate himself with this movement and it will be remarked with pleasure by the whole of the members of the Association that he has presented a prize of £5 5s. to be competed for in connection with the forthcoming School.

The competition will take the form of an Essay Competition and the result will be available before the opening of the School at Oriel College.

The rules and subjects are given on another page in this issue of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, but we stress the fact that in addition to a substantial money prize, the winner of this competition will be invited to attend the School and to take part in the session which will be specially held in connection with the competition. He will thus have the satisfaction of recognition for his efforts, a fact that should encourage the production of a really first-class piece of work.

SISTER TUTOR SCHOLARSHIP

THE N.A.L.G.O. will award this year a Sister Tutor Scholarship to the value of £150. The scholarship is open to trained nurses who have been members of the N.A.L.G.O. and N.P.L.O.A. since January, 1930. The scholarship is of sufficient value to cover the cost of the course for Sister Tutors of Household and Social Science held at King's College, University of London. There are three academic terms of approximately ten weeks, the first beginning in October. Details and application forms can be obtained from the General Secretary and should be returned not later than April 18. There is an examination in general and professional knowledge for applicants on May 9.

I.M.T.A. EXAMINATIONS

THE Nalgo Correspondence Institute has completely revised its course for the I.M.T.A. examinations. The opportunity provided by the resignations of several of its tutors, owing to additional duties cast upon them in their municipal offices, was taken to establish a new system of organisation. A Director of Studies, Mr. Percy Craven, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer of Hornsey, will supervise the whole of the study papers, test papers, epitomes, etc., issued in connection with the

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course and will watch carefully the progress of each student. He will deal with each one individually and it is hoped that the care and thought to be expended on this group of students will lead to very fine examination results.

Students who wish to prepare for the 1932 examinations are asked to enrol at the earliest possible moment, as the time available is rapidly running out. Those who will not present themselves until 1933, cannot do better than get into touch with Mr. Craven through the Nalgo Correspondence Institute at an early date, in order that they may give a generous amount of time to their preparation. Particulars will gladly be sent to anyone interested in this ambitious venture.

TEXT BOOKS

ARRANGEMENTS for the supply of text books to students of the Nalgo Correspondence Institute have been made with the well-known firm of booksellers, W. & G. Foyles, Ltd., of 119-125 Charing Cross Road, W.C.2. Under this scheme new books can be purchased at the published price and second-hand books at about two-thirds of the published price. In both cases Messrs. Foyles guarantee to buy back the books at two-thirds of the price paid by the student, any time within one year, provided that they are returned in good condition. For periods over one year and under two, half the published price of the books will be paid, and for periods between two and three years one-third the published price. If desired, purchases may be made by deferred payments, in this case 5 per cent. is added to the total bill, which is then paid by twelve equal monthly instalments. Special forms are issued to students of the Nalgo Correspondence Institute who wish to avail themselves of this very generous offer.

NALGO EXAMINATIONS

THE results of the Nalgo Examinations held in January last revealed once again that many candidates present themselves before they have adequately covered the syllabus. Every opportunity was given in the Preliminary Examination for candidates to show their knowledge but only eighteen out of eighty candidates passed; fifty failed and twelve were referred in certain specified subjects. In the Intermediate Examination out of a total of sixteen, seven passed, three failed, and six were referred in certain subjects. In the Final Examination all five entrants were successful and showed quite a good standard of proficiency.

It should be noted that a further examination will be held on May 14, 15 and 16. Application forms for this examination should be sent in before April 1 or as soon as possible thereafter.

SCHOLARSHIP, SCHOOL AND EXAMINATION DATES

April 1.—Last day for entering for the Nalgo Examinations in May.

„ 18.—Last day for applying for the Sister Tutor Scholarship.

May 9.—Examination for the Sister Tutor Scholarship.

„ 14-16.—Nalgo Preliminary, Intermediate, and Final Examinations.

June 30.—Last days for sending in registration forms for the Summer Schools.

July 1.—Last day for sending in Essays for the Sir Arthur Robinson Competition.

„ 11.—Opening of the Scottish Summer School.

„ 25.—Opening of the Summer School at Oriel College, Oxford.

Aug. 1.—Opening of the second week of the Summer School at Oriel College, Oxford.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months : October, 56; November, 57; December, 55; January, 53; February, 52; March 50.

The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows :

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.
Food	38	36	34
Rent	54	54	54
Clothing	105	105	100
Fuel and Light ..	75	85	75
Other Items ..	75	75	75

The Ministry of Labour Gazette states that, during February there was a further fall in the general level of the retail prices of food, as a result of reductions in the average prices of eggs, bread and flour, butchers' meat and bacon, partly counter-balanced by increases in the prices of butter.

In regard to rent, the statistics of the Ministry of Labour take into account decontrolled rents of working-class dwellings.

RE-ARRANGEMENT OF COUNTY DISTRICTS

By THE LEGAL SECRETARY

BY Section 46 of the Local Government Act, 1929, it is provided that every county council shall as soon as may be after the commencement of the Act, after conferences with representatives of the councils of the several districts wholly or partly within the county, review the circumstances of all such districts and consider whether it is desirable to effect any of the following changes :

(*a*) any alteration or definition of the boundaries of any such district or of any parish;
(*b*) the union of any such district or parish with another such district or parish;
(*c*) the transfer of any part of such district or parish to another district or parish;
(*d*) the conversion of any such district or any part thereof, if it is a rural district, into an urban district, or if it is an urban district, into or so as to form part of a rural district;
(*e*) the formation of any new district or parish.

After the review is completed, and before April 1, 1932, or such later date as the Minister of Health may allow, the county council must send to the Minister a report of the review, together with any proposals as to changes which they consider desirable.

The proposals may include proposals for the transfer of a part of a non-county borough to another district, or of another district or part of another district to a non-county borough, and, if the council of the county borough concerned agree, for an alteration of boundaries between a county borough and the county and any district therein.

Ministerial Power

After considering the proposals the Minister either may make an order giving effect to the proposals, or any of them, with or without modifications, or may refuse to make such an order.

The section also provides for the holding of a local inquiry in certain circumstances and that an order made under the section shall be laid before Parliament.

Several county councils have submitted to the Minister their proposals as to changes in the areas of local authorities and in one or two cases (in which the Minister has not yet made any order) the proposals are startling and almost revolutionary.

The Minister has already made three orders under the section, one dealing with the extension of the boundary of a non-county borough, another abolishing one urban district and six rural districts and forming four new rural districts in their place, whilst the third provides for the formation of a new urban district to consist of two existing urban districts and part of a rural district.

By arrangement with the Ministry drafts of the orders are supplied to the Association so that the provisions relating to officers may be examined. Every draft order is examined by the Parliamentary Agent and the Legal Secretary; inquiries are made as to the members who are likely to be affected; and where any amendments are required to protect the interests of the members concerned the necessary representations are made to the Minister before the order is made.

The provisions as to the transfer and compensation of officers in the draft orders received to date may be regarded as satisfactory, inasmuch as they closely follow the provisions relating to those matters in the Local Government Act, 1929.

Superannuation

The councils of a number of the districts to be abolished on the formation of new districts have adopted the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, and provisions have to be inserted in the orders to safeguard the superannuation rights of the officers who are to be transferred to the new councils. Some of the transferred officers, for example rating officers, may be officers who were transferred under the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, and who have superannuation rights under the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, which were preserved under section 51 of the former Act, and in such cases the order should make provision to continue the preservation of those rights.

As the result of representations made by the Association the Ministry have included in the orders which have been made provisions to preserve the superannuation rights which the transferred officers may possess.

The following are the provisions relating to officers in the Lathom and Burscough and Ormskirk Order, 1931 :

Transfer of Officers of Urban Councils and Joint Hospital Board

37.—(1) Any person who on the date of this order is an officer of either of the existing urban councils or is an officer of the joint hospital board shall on the appointed day be transferred to and become an officer of the new urban council.

(2) Every officer so transferred shall hold his office by the same tenure and upon the same terms and conditions as if this order had not been made and while performing similar duties shall receive not less salary or remuneration and be entitled to not less pension (if any) than the salary remuneration or pension to which he would have been entitled if this order had not been made.

(3) The new urban council may distribute their business among the transferred officers in such manner as they may think proper and every officer shall perform such duties in relation to that business as may be directed by the new urban council who may also abolish the office or determine the appointment of any officer whose office they may consider unnecessary.

(4) If at any time within five years after the appointed day any transferred officer is required by the new urban council to perform duties which are not analogous to or which are an unreasonable addition to those which that officer is required to perform immediately before the appointed day the officer may relinquish his office.

Compensation to Existing Officers

38.—(1) Every officer in office on the date of this order who by virtue of this order or of anything done in pursuance or in consequence thereof suffers any direct pecuniary loss by abolition of office by determination of his appointment or by diminution or loss of fees salary or emoluments (and for whose compensation for that loss no other provision is made by any enactment for the time being in force) shall be entitled to compensation under this order from the new urban council for that loss.

(2) For the purposes of this section any transferred officer who relinquishes his office under the power conferred by this order and any officer whose appointment is abolished or determined or whose fees salary or emoluments are reduced within five years after the appointed day because his services are not required or his duties are diminished in consequence of this order and not on the ground of misconduct shall be deemed unless the contrary is shown to have suffered a direct pecuniary loss in consequence of this order.

Determination of Compensation

39.—(1) Any claim to compensation under this part of this order shall be addressed to the new urban council and any compensation awarded shall be payable out of the general rate fund of the new urban district.

(2) For the purposes of the determination and payment of compensation under this order to officers paragraphs 1 to 14 and paragraph 16 of the eighth schedule to the Local Government Act, 1929, shall apply with this modification that references in that schedule to the Act of 1929 shall be read as references to this order.

Joint Superannuation Scheme

40.—(1) The new urban council shall be a constituent authority of the West Lancashire (Local Authorities) superannuation joint committee formed for the purposes of the Local Government and other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, and shall be represented on the joint committee by three members.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this section there shall be substituted in the scheme of 1926 a reference to the new urban council for the references therein to the existing urban councils and to the joint hospital board and any posts duly designated as established posts by either of the existing urban councils or by the joint hospital board shall be deemed as from the day on which the existing designation operated to be posts designated as established posts by the new urban council for the purposes of the scheme of 1926.

(3) Any officer by this order transferred to the new urban council who upon the transfer holds an office designated by an existing urban council or the joint hospital board as an established post for the purposes of the scheme of 1926 shall while he performs under the new urban council the same or analogous duties remain subject to that scheme and be deemed to continue to fill the designated post.

The Designated Post

By Article 2 "officer" includes a servant. The Association asked the Ministry to agree to an amendment of Article 40 (3), which provides that an officer who upon transfer holds a post that has been designated for the Superannuation Act shall be deemed to continue to fill the designated post while he performs under the new urban council the same or analogous duties. It has been pointed out to the Ministry that the new council may require a transferred officer to perform duties different from those which he was performing before transfer

(*Continued on page* 100)

WOMEN IN THE SERVICE

A Prophecy Interrupted by Dialogue

By Jenifer Ullman

IS there a really permanent place for women in the local government service? That question a group of subordinate officers in the employment of one of the larger municipal authorities has discussed. The female members of the staff are most interested. On several occasions their vigour was pronounced enough to demonstrate the truth of the Shavian theory that all progress is with the healthy, combative female. She, the mother of days to come when she is to teach the young idea to shoot in accordance with that famous line in Thomson's *Seasons*, claims to be the only living force that makes for improvement in the stuffy, gloomy offices of this antiquated town hall.

> Imogen: "You recall the weed-like figure of that pale-faced clerk in the treasurer's department—bent shoulders, which he vainly tries to straighten and flatten by tennis on Saturday afternoons? After seeing him in decay who could say that clerical work is a man's business?"
>
> Miranda: "Is writing entries in a book a woman's natural business? Would you have all women narrow, Imogen, so that your concept of their rights were not frustrated? —wan like that unhappy youth of whom you speak, disconsolate as a pool under cloudy moonlight; alas! the fate that overtakes poor creatures who toil with figures and law."

The point? One has it—whether in the office there is a real place for women? Vexed question engendering heat; never to be answered except in reference to the work she is called on to perform. Already some twenty thousand women fetch and carry in the offices of the sapient, elected representatives of the people who adorn the councils of this long-suffering island. And yet, male examples of obsolescence innumerable ask this redundant question. Well might thinkers announce that the male stream—unlike a gulf stream—has completed its mission and that a militant age is come. Is it not absurd that doubt should exist whether some women are not competent to be town clerks or electrical engineers?

> Imogen: "Till now she was content to be a health visitor, matron of hospitals, a sanitary inspector. In return for a tiny pile of shillings weekly she has even been engaged to hand books across the public library counter. Miranda, tell me, will the day come when a woman, possessed of that fund of learning, shining with poetical lore and saturated with the beauties of our English prose—a condition, you will agree, which is habitual with librarians—think you, one asks, will any woman ever scale those Olympian heights?"
>
> Miranda: "Why so lyrical my love? your eloquence obscures the popularity of Mr. Edgar Wallace, while it fails to account for the critic's preference for criminal detective novels, falsely acclaimed as 'psychology' by those who know nothing of the nature of mind. Pray, cease your many coloured badinage. Librarians need it not and the engineer would sink it, full fathom five, far down in the municipal cemetery. Have you forgotten that Philistines already allow a few brave women to hold the post of Medical Officer of Health?"

Again the point? Where did we leave that point, elusive, formless, fast receding point? Ah! Have women any lasting place in the borough engineer's department; can she read a map and calculate the storm flow? Is her employment merely a passing whim doomed to die when, weary of emancipation, woman casts away the cigarette and returns to brooms and dusters?

> Dogberry: "She will then smoke pipes."

On the feminine side in our group we believe that a few years hence women and machines will perform nearly all the work which males now discharge with many laborious complaints and mutterings. Naturally progressive, we believe in the machine and better organisation, while the male is afraid of their consequences. We believe this country must transform its methods, and that efficiency is not to be procured by employing men at work on which a community in search of power would not employ them. As for the higher offices. In face of bitter opposition woman has shown that in mathematics, in law, in medicine and as a business organiser, she is equal to the higher masculine examples. She falls short only in philosophy—

> Dogberry: "Away with the condiment which mortifies the flesh and is banned in council chambers. In his admonition to the cleansing superintendent did not His Worship the Mayor enjoin that all philosophers be dealt with by controlled tipping? Constable! heard you ever of philosophy in local government circles?"

In my view a man should not be a clerk, nor fritter away time in taking measurements with a tape or in calculating how much thirteen shillings will return at a percentage nine years hence. Let him pour a ten-ton casting, work on the land, build houses that do not mock our sense of fitness as dwellings for the race, drive an engine or go to sea. These things are a man's work. When a rational kind of education is the rule nearly all the tasks of local government will be transacted by women and machines. By making wealth, men will again become the breadwinners —and women, unconscious disciples of Bernard Shaw and the abhorred of his master, Schopenhauer, will spend it.

Re-arrangement of County Districts

(*Continued from page 99*)

and the officer, particularly if he has had only a short period of previous service, may not want to relinquish office under Article 37 (4) and claim compensation. An amendment was submitted to the Ministry with the object of providing that while a transferred officer holds *any* office under the new council he shall remain subject to the superannuation scheme and any office so held by him shall be deemed to be a designated post. The Ministry, however, refused to accept the amendment.

Except as regards this point, the provisions relating to the superannuation of transferred officers can be regarded as satisfactory.

The Ministry have intimated that in all cases where rating officers who are contributing under the Superannuation Act of 1896 are to be transferred, it is proposed to include in the Order a provision to protect such officers' rights under that Act.

In the Gloucestershire and Worcestershire toWarwickshire Transfer Order, 1931, made under section 54 of the Local Government Act, 1888, the following article appears, viz:

"Where by virtue of section fifty-one of the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, applies to an officer who by this order is transferred from the service of one rating authority to the service of another rating authority the provisions of the Act of 1896 shall continue to apply to the officer notwithstanding his transfer by this order."

LIVERPOOL MUNICIPAL GUILD

On March 19, at the Liverpool Assizes, judgment on all counts with costs was given by Mr. Justice Charles in favour of twenty-six municipal officers who were sued as the Executive Committee of the Liverpool Municipal Officers' Guild. The plaintiffs, Messrs. Ariel, Gray & Co., Ltd., wholesale tobacconists, Liverpool, sought to recover £2399, as balance of the price of goods alleged to have been sold and delivered to the Guild. For the defence it was held that no sum was due from the members of the Guild and that the goods supplied were delivered to the person who was then Secretary of that organisation.

Emphasis should be laid on the fact that the officers of the Liverpool Branch of N.A.L.G.O. were not in any way concerned with the action. The Liverpool Municipal Officers' Guild was a body of officers formed for social and trading purposes. At no time during its existence was it in any way connected with N.A.L.G.O.

BRANCH BUBLICATIONS

The Journal, the very excellent organ published by the City of Liverpool Branch, records the election of Mr. Francis B. Lunt to the first presidency of the branch, and of Mr. G. W. Coster, vice-president. Both these officials have had a distinguished career in local government service and their influence has radiated far beyond Liverpool's confines.

Thoughtful reading and a ready wit abound in the March issue of *The Stem*, the branch publication of Widnes. Of the former, Mr. Tom Caldwell's article—he is the Deputy Gas and Water Engineer—is to be commended.

We find recorded in *The Journal*, issued by the Chesterfield Municipal Officers' Guild, local news of interest. The formation of a dramatic section is mentioned and early indications point to a successful future for this venture. The records of sports and social sections make bright reading.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Organising and Branch Secretaries are requested to send "copy" to reach the Editor by April 17 for the May issue.

News of events which take place later—up to April 18—can be inserted if correspondents will send an intimation to the Editor beforehand.

"Local Government Service,"
3 and 4 Clement's Inn, W.C.2.

EAST HAM CO-OPERATION

REFERENCE was made in the March issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE to the decisions of the East Ham Corporation to merge the salary and bonus paid to their officials on the basis of a cost of living figure of 70. The local staff consultative joint committee have been engaged on the question of consolidation of salaries and re-allocation of grades for practically the whole of the year 1930 and, notwithstanding the economic depression of the moment, the East Ham Corporation has adopted the joint committee's recommendations to consolidate salaries by merging the present salary and bonus.

The Corporation found itself unable to accept the joint committee's proposals for the re-allocation of grades in view of its present commitments, and the matter has, therefore, been referred to the joint committee for further consideration and it is hoped that at no very distant date proposals acceptable to the Corporation and staff alike will be adopted.

CO-OPERATION MAINTAINED

It is interesting to note that of the nine staff representatives on the committee to-day, five were on the first joint committee appointed in the year 1920. The political complex of the Town Council has undergone great changes during the last few years, and of the forty members of the authority to-day, not more than ten were members at the date of the inception of the joint committee. Nevertheless, the principles of co-operation between the Council and its employees is maintained and there are joint committees of different types for the teachers, caretakers, workmen, and other employees.

Mention must be made of COUNCILLOR BURDEN, who has occupied the chair of the joint committee for nearly three years. His experience in other trade union activities has been of great value. COUNCILLOR BURDEN would be amongst the first to pay tribute to the very splendid work of his predecessor in office, EX-ALDERMAN DAVIE, who for many years filled the post and fostered the spirit of co-operation in East Ham. Both attended as representatives of East Ham the special session arranged by Nalgo at Bournemouth for a discussion of the educational programme.

MR. A. GARRARD, who for five years was a member of the N.E.C., has been vice-chairman of the joint committee for the past two years, and his colleagues on the joint committee are to be congratulated on their recent successful achievement.

HURRAH! FOR A NALGO HOLIDAY

THERE is no doubt that the demand during the months of July and August will far exceed the available accommodation at the Camp, and bookings from persons unconnected with Nalgo are not being accepted for those months. Bookings from members, for their families or one or two friends are coming in freely and June and September bid fair to be busy months at the Camp.

The advantages of early holidays should be weighed. During the earlier months weather is generally good—days are long and the terms are more favourable. In many parts of the country there are local holidays which provide an excellent opportunity for a stay at Croyde Bay. In many branches arrangements are afoot for the organisation of parties to the Camp. Where Holiday Saving Clubs have been established they should provide the necessary funds to meet the modest fee. Many members use the Provident Society as the means for making sure of the holiday expenditure; when paying their premiums to the

CROYDE BAY HOLIDAY CAMP

Sickness Insurance Scheme they add an amount which goes into their Deposit Account, and thus make regular savings for the annual holiday.

There will be much activity, individual and organised, for the purpose of gaining practical experience of the facilities at the Bungalow Camp at Croyde Bay. The railway companies offer special terms for travelling at Easter, week-ends and other eight- and fifteen-day periods, in addition to the tourist tickets to Barnstaple and also to Braunton (S. and G.W.R.) the nearest station to the Camp (about four miles). A 'bus service passes the station and entrance to the Camp.

Many will travel down to Croyde Bay by car and the coach companies run services from various parts of the country. One of the coach companies, for example, is advertising period tickets for Barnstaple at 25s. return, the coach leaving London at 9 a.m. It is a simple matter to get the local 'bus at Barnstaple for the remaining distance of about ten miles. It is hoped to make arrangements later in the year for special coaches from London direct to the Camp.

Third-class week-end fare to Braunton is 32s. 3d., and to Croyde Bay 33s. 6d. The tickets are issued on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays by any train available for return as follows: (issued on Fridays)—return Saturday, Sunday Monday or Tuesday in the same week-end; (issued on Saturdays and Sundays)—return Sunday, Monday or Tuesday in the same week-end.

In connection with the Easter holidays, "holiday" tickets will be issued to Braunton and Croyde Bay at the week-end fares shown above: (outward)—April 2 by trains after 12 noon; Saturday, April 4, by all trains; (return)—any day, April 6 to 18 inclusive, by any train.

During the coming season the company will probably issue "holiday" tickets to Braunton and Croyde Bay at the week-end fares on Fridays,

(*Continued at column 3*)

MUNICIPAL YEAR BOOK

By H. M. GIBSON, M.P.

THE MUNICIPAL YEAR BOOK (price 20s., post free; *The Municipal Journal*, 3-4 Clements Inn, Strand, W.C.2) is always a fine production. Since it was founded, in 1897, it has proved indispensable to the keen student of municipal affairs. The volume for 1931 is rich in statistics of every branch of municipal activity—a veritable mine of information.

The task before the local government authorities has been increasing in volume and importance for many years, but never so much as in the last two. April, 1930, witnessed a great addition, far-reaching in effect, and marked a new stage in development.

INCREASED LEGISLATION

The Housing Act of 1930 was a measure of considerable importance which laid new responsibilities upon local authorities; the Road Traffic Act, 1930, was another piece of legislation of first-rate importance and, whatever else may be said, it was a bold attempt to codify the law in relation to mechanical road transport. The volume of traffic on our highways is ever increasing and the maintenance and improvement of 179,000 miles of highways in Great Britain incurs an annual cost of something like £60,000,000. One section of the year book is devoted to the legislation of 1929-30 affecting local government in the United Kingdom, and here we get a clear idea of the added importance of the local authority. It is interesting to note the development of municipal trading which these pages reveal, and it is in this field, I believe, that we shall see still greater progress in the future.

In these and many other aspects of local government full details are given in this ever-useful book. The Minister of Transport, Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, M.P., writing an introduction to the section on Highways, Transport, and Electricity, uses the following words: "The responsibilities of local authorities are constantly increasing in complexity and diversity, and a work such as *The Municipal Year Book*, which sets out the more important information with regard to local government in a compact and readily accessible form, deserves the thanks both of local authorities and of Government departments." That is a well-deserved tribute.

N.E.C. MEETING.—*The May issue of "Local Government Service" will contain a summary report of the proceedings of the N.E.C. at its meeting on Saturday, March 21.*

Saturdays and Sundays, available for return on the following Friday or any day up to and including the 18th day.

Full particulars of the Easter and season arrangements may be obtained by application to the Southern Railway Company.

BRANCH & DISTRICT NEWS

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

An opportunity recently presented itself to members of the Ashton-under-Lyne Branch to place on record their appreciation of the qualities possessed by their admirable President, Mr. C. Irwin Baker, M.Inst.T., General Manager of the Corporation tramway and motor services. Mr. and Mrs. Baker celebrated the silver anniversary of their wedding on February 21, and to recognise the event the administrative staff, together with several members of the Ashton Corporation tramways department, gave Mr. and Mrs. Baker a silver syphon holder. The presentation was made by Mr. F. H. Crossley, the assistant manager.

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

A most successful year is indicated in the annual report of the Ashton-in-Makerfield Branch. On the application of the D.O.S., the Council adopted the grading scheme of the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council for all officers receiving less than £350 per annum. Officers outside the scales who were receiving a salary on a bonus basis have had their salaries consolidated, and in response to an application for the adoption of superannuation, the Council agreed in principle and decided to obtain an actuarial report.

BARNET

The first social and dance organised by the Barnet Branch was held at the Barnet Council Offices. There were about sixty present, the company including members of the Barnet and East Barnet Valley Urban District Councils, and officials of the various local authorities in the neighbourhood.

BEXLEY

The Bexley U.D.C. Branch is to be congratulated on having more than doubled its membership during the past year and getting within sight of the 100 per cent. membership mark. This year the annual dinner organised by the branch excelled any of its predecessors.

BINGLEY

The Bingley, Yorkshire, officials held their annual whist drive and dance in the Princess Hall, Bingley, on February 27. The guests, numbering about two hundred and including representatives from Leeds, Keighley and Shipley Branches of the Nalgo, were received by the Chairman of the Council, Mr. R. Mitchell, J.P., and Mrs. Mitchell. The duties of M.C.s were discharged by Councillors W. Longbottom and W. M. Whitwham and Mr. J. Wilson.

BIRMINGHAM N.P.L.O.A.

The final meeting of the Birmingham Branch of the N.P.L.O.A., was held at the Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham, on Friday, February 27. Mr. A. E. Hodder, Superintendent of Wigmore Schools, presided. The meeting considered the disposal of its funds, and after approving an honorarium of seven guineas to Mr. W. Hemer, hon. secretary, decided to hand over £10 to the newly formed Birmingham Branch of N.A.L.G.O. and the balance of £40 to the West Midland District Committee of N.A.L.G.O., to be used at the Committee's discretion. Mr. J. E. N. Davis, Divisional Organising Secretary of N.A.L.G.O., expressed appreciation of the decisions of the meeting.

CAMBRIDGE

The fifth annual dinner of the Cambridgeshire County Branch was held at the New Dorothy Restaurant, Cambridge, the attendance constituting a record. Among the guests were Alderman W. C. Jackson, Chairman of the Cambridgeshire County Council; Councillors Mrs. Mellish Clark and E. G. Gordon Frost, Mr. Hurst, Cambridge Borough Branch; Mr. P. S. Stringer, deputy clerk of the Council, and Dr. Frank Robinson, Council and staff.

CARDIFF

The Cardiff City Council has adopted a new standing order. It is: "When a question of salary or promotion of an individual officer of the Corporation is under discussion by any Committee, such Committee shall be deemed to be sitting as a sub-committee for the purpose of the exclusion of the Press. When any such question is under discussion by the Council, the Lord Mayor, or the chairman for the time being shall require the Press to refrain from reporting the discussion."

CARMARTHEN

"Frankly disappointed" was how one member of the Carmarthen Branch expressed himself at the attendance at the quarterly meeting of the Carmarthen Branch held on Saturday, March 7. The meeting had been convened for a Saturday as an experiment principally to suit the convenience of Ex-N.P.L.O.A. It was decided to repeat the experiment and the Executive Committee was instructed to consider the possibility of arranging a tea.

CORNWALL

The membership of the Cornwall County Council Branch has increased during the past fifteen months from 126 to 286. The annual dinner was presided over by Mr. T. A. H. Sheers, Clerk of the County Council, and among the principal guests were Mr. T. R. Grylls and Mr. H. Toy, Chairman of the Finance and Staffing Committees of the County Council. About a hundred were present. The Social Committee have, since the annual meeting, arranged three efforts—a variety entertainment given in the City Hall, Truro, a social, and a whist drive and dance.

COVENTRY

There was a record attendance at the annual dinner of the Coventry Branch, held at the historic St. Mary's Hall, on March 6. The Mayor in responding to the toast to himself, proposed by the D.O.S., acknowledged the Council's indebtedness to the officials, particularly in regard to the great volume of work thrust upon them owing to the Extension Bills. Councillor A. R. Grindlay, proposed the toast of the association. Mr. Harrod responded.

DERBY

The annual dinner of the Derby Borough Branch was held recently at King's Cafe, Derby. The visitors included the Mayor, Councillor H. Hoare, Alderman W. R. Raynes, M.P., J.P., and other members of the Town Council, Mr. J. E. N. Davis, Divisional Organising Secretary, Mr. E. I. E. Williams, Town Clerk of Ilkeston, representing the Ilkeston Branch, Mr. A. B. Day and Mr. W. Parker, from the Nottingham Branch, Mr. R. W. Haywood, from the Derbyshire County Branch, and the principal local officials.

EAST HAM

The annual dinner of the East Ham Borough Officers' Association was held on February 27, when a company numbering 180 foregathered at the Holborn Restaurant under the chairmanship of Mr. F. W. Patmore. The Mayor, Mr. Councillor Newling, J.P., and the Mayoress, the Rev. M. O. Hodgson, Vicar of East Ham and Mayor's Chaplain; the Town Clerk, Mr. C. Eustace Wilson, President; Miss A. Susan Lawrence, M.P., Vice-president; Mr. L. Hill, General Secretary of the National Association of Local Government Officers, were among the guests, and Mr. M. E. Fitch, Honorary Secretary of the Branch. Representatives from Barking, Hornchurch and West Ham Branches of Nalgo, fourteen members of the Town Council and the chief officers of the authority were among the diners.

EAST SUSSEX

There was a record attendance of East Sussex County Officers at the annual supper and entertainment of the branch, held at the Town Hall, Lewes, on March 4. Mr. H. J. T. McIlveen, Clerk of the C.C., presided and the guests included Mr. C. H. S. Ellis, Vice-Chairman of the C.C., who proposed the toast of "N.A.L.G.O.," members of the County Council and members of other Branches of the Association.

EPPING

The annual dinner of the Epping Forest Branch was held at the Great Eastern Hotel, E.C., recently, presided over by Mr. E. A. Miller, and chairman of the Branch. The company numbered about forty. An excellent musical programme was provided.

EPSOM

On March 6 the Epsom Municipal Officers' Association held a dance-social for the members and their friends at the Forester's Hall, Epsom. An excellent attendance was recorded and an enjoyable evening spent. Dancing and whist continued from 8 p.m. to midnight and the prizes were presented by Mrs. Skelton, the wife of the vice-chairman of the Epsom U.D.C.

FELLING

Mr. C. W. Hall, District Surveyor, presided over the dinner of the Felling Branch, at the County Hotel, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The guests were County Alderman Patrick Bennett and Mrs. Bennett, Mr. J. H. Stone, chairman of the North-eastern District Committee, and Mr. J. B. Swinden.

FINSBURY

The third annual dance of the Finsbury Borough Officers' Guild was held in the Finsbury Town Hall, Rosebery Avenue, E.C., on February 4, and was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Finsbury, Councillor C. R. Simpson and Mrs. Simpson, together with many members and friends. The St. Dunstan's Blind Band were in attendance, an enjoyable dance ensuing. The proceeds will be devoted to the Benevolent Fund of the Guild.

GRAVESEND

The inaugural meeting of the Gravesend Branch was held recently when Mr. F. Thomas, the divisional organising secretary, addressed the staff at the offices of the Gravesend Borough Council. It is anticipated that the initial membership of forty will be considerably increased as a result of the propaganda campaign launched by the new Branch. Mayor G. W. T. Coles, assistant Borough Treasurer, was elected chairman.

HALIFAX

The annual whist drive and dance was held at the Alexandra Cafe on February 26. Dr. Davidson, the President, welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Halifax, the President of Yorkshire District, Mr. F. Marsden; also visitors from Leeds, Bradford and Todmorden Branches. The Mayor, replying, stressed the value of unity between the Council and its officials. The M.C.s were Mr. F. Maud for dancing and Mr. C. Carlton for whist.

HARROGATE

The annual social and cabaret of the Branch, held at the Harlow Manor Hydro on February 17, was organised by the ladies' committee, and added one more to the long list of successful entertainments which the branch has arranged in past years. The first part of the evening was occupied with whist and after supper dancing was interspersed with cabaret items. Some admirable dancing by Miss Myrtle Scrivens and Miss W. Robinson, and a highly amusing sketch, *The Television*, written and produced by "Jack Tate and his Sugar Cubes," completed the programme.

BRANCH & DISTRICT NEWS

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Appreciable progress has been made during the last six months by the Hemel Hempstead and District Branch, membership of which is fast approaching the 100 per cent. mark. At the general meeting a cordial welcome was extended to local members of the Poor Law Officer's Association. The Branch rules were revised to meet the enlarged membership.

ILFORD

Those present at the Ilford Branch annual dinner and social on February 10, participated in a most enjoyable evening. The arrangements were carried out by Mr. B. Lawson, the branch secretary. The function, it is felt, will, in future, be an annual feature of the branch's activities.

IPSWICH

A dance in aid of the N.A.L.G.O. Benevolent and Orphan Fund was held at "Heathfields," Ipswich, on March 4. The thanks of the Branch are due to the Master, Mr. Oliver C. Jones, who organised the function and acted as M.C.

LIVERPOOL

Among the principal guests at the annual dinner of the Liverpool branch of N.A.L.G.O., held at the Exchange Hotel and presided over by Mr. F. B. Lunt, president, were Sir James P. Reynolds, Bart, M.P., Sir J. Sandeman Allen, M.P., Mr. J. H. Hayes, M.P., Alderman Muirhead, Alderman Hogan, and other members of the Council. The toast of the "City of Liverpool," was proposed by Mr. J. H. Hayes, and responded to by Alderman Muirhead. The Association" was toasted by Sir John Allen. Mr. F. B. Lunt responded. Mr. G. W. Coster, M.B.E., vice-president, proposed "The Guests," and Sir J. P. Reynolds, Bart., M.P., Alderman Hogan, J.P., and Mr. W. H. Legh-Smith, City Treasurer, responded. The function was in every respect a success, the gathering being the largest in the history of the branch.

LLANTARNAM AND LLANFRECHFA

Special meetings of these Councils were held on February 25 to consider Actuarial Reports on the cost of adopting the Superannuation Act. It is proposed to seek admission to the Monmouth County Council Scheme.

LLANDUDNO

The annual dinner of the Llandudno Branch was held at The Empire Hotel, Llandudno, on February 18, and proved a most enjoyable function. Mr. W. T. Ward, Engineer and Surveyor, occupied the chair, supported by Mr. W. S. Williams, J.P., Chairman of the Council; Mr. J. W. Singleton, N.E.C., and several members of the Council. The toast of "Nalgo" was proposed by Mr. Williams and responded to by Mr. J. W. Singleton, and "Our Guests," by Mr. W. T. Ward, responded to by Councillor James Cheetham, J.P. During the evening a tribute was paid to the retiring secretary, Mr. W. H. Lester. Mr. Singleton dealt with the chief phases of the work of the association.

MACCLESFIELD

Three officials of the Macclesfield Corporation who have long periods of service to their credit, are to retire shortly. They are Mr. Atherton Brunt, Librarian; Mr. J. P. Barber, Water Rates Collector; and Mr. H. Allen, School Attendance Officer. Mr. Brunt has held the position of Librarian since 1892, and Mr. Barber and Mr. Allen have been in the service of the authority for thirty-nine and thirty-two years respectively. Reference was made to the impending departures of these officers at the annual meeting of the Macclesfield Branch recently.

MANCHESTER

The annual dinner and dance of the Manchester Branch took place in the Manchester Limited Restaurant on February 19, when some 300 members and friends were present. The president, Dr. R. Veitch Clark, Medical Officer of Health, presided, and the company included the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of the city. The Manchester Branch is placing before its members certain holiday tours for separate parties of twenty-five or more for several Continental tours leaving on various dates throughout the holiday season. These include fifteen days Belgian Coast, Bruges and Brussels, with excursions to Antwerp and the battlefields; or eight days in Holland with excursions into Belgium; fourteen days Norway tour; six days Lucerne and six days Grindelwald. Reservations are being effected on payment to the Branch hon. treasurer of a deposit of £1 per ticket, the balance of the cost being payable on demand not less than fourteen days prior to departure.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

Of interest to local government officers within the environs of London is the tenth annual reunion and Bohemian concert of the Metropolitan District to be held at the Queen's Hall on Friday, April 24. Opportunity will be taken by the President of the Metropolitan District Committee and of the Association, Mr. A. P. Johnson, to present the sports trophies. Early application for tickets should be made through Branch secretaries. The prices of admission are: Area and Grand Circle, 2s. 6d.; Balcony, 1s. 6d.

MEXBOROUGH

At the recent dance arranged by the Mexbrough and district Branch and held at the Empress Ballroom, over three hundred members and friends supported the function, the proceeds of which were for the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

MIDDLETON

The Middleton Corporation is varying the conditions of employment of its officers by instituting regulations regarding payment during sickness. Representations are being made to the local authority to the general effect that as there can be no limitation of the incidence of sickness amongst officers there should properly be no hard and fast rules which cause hardship and prevent the employing committee from exercising intelligent discretion.

NORTHAMPTON

Mr. H. A. Millington, O.B.E., Clerk of the Northamptonshire County Council, who is president of the Branch, presided at the annual dinner of the Northampton Town and County Branch held at the Peacock Hotel, Northampton, on February 19. The Corporation was represented by the Mayor and others. Mr. H. S. Newton, Sheffield, chairman of the Management Committee of the B. & O. Fund, congratulated the Branch upon its work.

NORTHUMBERLAND

A whist drive was held on February 27 at Binn's Café, Market Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, under the auspices of the Northumberland County Council Staff's Sports Club. There were present a large gathering of members of the staff and friends, including the County Accountant and the Deputy Chief Constable. Mrs. Hay distributed the prizes. The Club's activities include football, tennis, swimming, golf, and other forms of outdoor and indoor sports, and fills an important place in the social life of the Northumberland Branch of N.A.L.G.O.

NORTH WALES

A mass outing to Maentwrog, Merioneth, is being arranged between North Wales Branches for Saturday, June 6. The object is to bring North Wales members together and to welcome new N.P.L.O.A. members.

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT

The North-western and North Wales district quarterly meeting was held at the Town Hall, Warrington, on Saturday, March 14. A resolution from the Yorkshire District Committee in connection with the principle of the appointment of a Standing Orders Committee to arrange the final agenda for the Annual Conference was referred to the General Purposes Committee, and motion by the Blackpool Branch to the effect that there should be a change in the date at which Conference is held was referred to the Branches.

OLDBURY

The U.D.C. is considering superannuation for officers and servants. The Clerk of the Council circulated a report on the 1922 Act, and made arrangements for a meeting of the whole of the employees of the Council.

The second annual dinner of the branch was held at the Town Hall on February 26. Mr. J. Campbell, Accountant to the Authority, presided. Mr. Wilfred Wellock, M.P., and members of the Council, and Mr. Arthur Culwick, Clerk to the Council, were present.

PORT OF LONDON

The Port of London Authority Branch held a smoking concert at the Commercial Sale Rooms Restaurant, Mincing Lane, E.C., on Thursday, March 5. Mr. J. T. Baker, a vice-chairman of the Metropolitan District Committee, addressed those present and made an appeal for the support of the association's B. and O. Fund. At the interval a collection was taken on behalf of the Fund.

RAMSBOTTOM

The Ramsbottom U.D.C. has decided that the salaries of officers, who have been paid on a salary plus bonus basis, shall in future be stabilised at the 65 point cost of living figure. Previously one section of the staff was appointed at "all-in rates," and the other subject to variation with the cost of living.

RUGBY

The first annual dinner of the Rugby Branch was held at Ye Olde Red Lion Hotel on Thursday, March 5, Mr. D. E. Biart, Clerk of the Council and president, presided. In proposing the toast of "N.A.L.G.O.," Councillor R. S. Hudson said he understood that 90 per cent. of the officers were members of the association. He hoped that if they met next year, the membership would be 100 per cent.

SALOP

A lecture on "Public Assistance Administration" was given by Major A. A. Johnson, O.B.E., Clerk of the Salop C.C., at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury, on Wednesday, February 11. Major Johnson dealt with Part 1 of the Local Government Act, 1929, and indicated the future trend of administration. On March 4 he was again the lecturer, taking as his subject, "The Re-arrangement of County Districts." "Elementary Economics" was the title of a lecture given by Professor J. G. Smith, M.Com., M.A., University of Birmingham, on March 13. The questions asked at the close of the lectures revealed the interest they occasion.

SCARBOROUGH

The Scarborough Branch held a dinner and dance at the Cambridge Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. Sydney Jones, Town Clerk. Alderman J. W. Butler, the Mayor, and Councillor F. C. Gardiner, Chairman of the Finance Committee, were present, together with Mr. F. Marsden, vice-president of the association, and Mr. J. B. Swinden, D.O.S.

BRANCH & DISTRICT NEWS

SHEFFIELD

The annual dinner of the Sheffield Municipal Officers' Guild Branch of N.A.L.G.O. was held on March 16, when Dr. Egerton H. Williams presided, supported by the Lord Mayor, members of the City Council, and Sir William E. Hart, O.B.E., L.L.D. Mr. S. Lord, F.S.A.A., president-elect of N.A.L.G.O., spoke of the growth of the association and its activities, and paid tribute to the splendid services rendered by the honorary officers of the branches throughout the country, and by the headquarters staff.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT

The South Wales District Committee of N.A.L.G.O. met at the Town Hall, Aberdare, on March 7. In an address of welcome to the delegates, Councillor Hodges said that local government administration grew more complicated and arduous, and the officers must share the new responsibilities. In his opinion members of councils should not interfere with actual details of administration.

Mr. G. Llewellyn, a member of the N.E.C., reported upon the Council's recommended change of general policy regarding the election of President.

The meeting discussed the principles laid down for legal assistance by the National Executive Council. It was considered a member should be entitled to legal assistance on the recommendation of his branch or his district committee, and that where a member was charged with a criminal offence, assistance should be provided on the recommendation of the branch or district committee.

Consideration was also given to a draft scale of salaries prepared by the N.E.C., and suggestions to be considered by the council were approved.

STALYBRIDGE

Under the happiest of auspices was the annual dinner of the Stalybridge branch held recently. Mr. William Hill, the president, was in the chair, and the presence of Mr. L. Hill, General Secretary of the association, was considered a compliment to the work which is being done in this area. There were also present members of the Corporation and heads of departments. The toasts of "The Branch" and "Association" were received with enthusiasm, all speakers striking a note of confidence in past achievements and a determination not only to maintain but to surpass the standard they had set themselves. Mutual confidence between staff and Corporation was repeatedly declared.

STOCKPORT

Seven years' service as secretary of the Stockport Branch was recognised by the presentation to Mr. Mark of a suitably inscribed gold watch at the annual supper and smoking concert of the branch, held in the Brookfield Hotel, recently. Mr. R. Willacy, the Branch President, was in the chair, and made the presentation. In acknowledging the gift, Mr. Mark said it was only when one occupied an official position in an association like N.A.L.G.O. that one realised how much was being done to make an efficient public service. The toast of "The Association" was submitted by Mr. Preston, Mr. George Carter responding.

Reference was made to the cordial relationship which exists between Council and officials, it being the common aim of both, as the Mayor, Councillor Joshua Preston remarked, to do the best they could for the town they served. The third and last of a series of whist drives and dances organised by the branch was held at the Town Hall on March 5.

SOUTH WESTERN

The South-western District Committee held its meeting on March 14 at the Croyde Bay Holiday Camp, North Devon. The delegates were impressed by the general layout and arrangements made for convenience and comfort at the Camp.

TOTTENHAM

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Kirkhope, Medical Officer, the members of the Tottenham Branch spent an enjoyable evening at the White Hart Hotel upon the occasion of the Branch annual dinner. The toast "The District Council" was proposed from the chair. Councillor Wallace, chairman of the council, responding. Proposing "N.A.L.G.O.," Councillor Penn expressed the interest which he and his fellow councillors had for the work they were doing and stressed the importance of a 100 per cent. membership. Mr. Portman, responding, said the full representation of the staff was their objective. The Tottenham Branch had made excellent progress, but there were still a minority who were unimpressed by the value of co-operation.

WALSALL

A deputation from the Walsall Branch, accompanied by Mr. J. E. N. Davis, D.O.S., thanking the Council for having adopted a new scale of salaries, particularly the improved scale for juniors, requested that in view of the difficulties of applying the new scale to seniors, its application should be deferred for a year; also that there should be consultation with the officials as to the application of the scale.

WALLSEND

Appreciative reference to the work and progress of the National Association was made at the recent dinner of the Wallsend Branch of N.A.L.G.O. Announcement was made during the evening that the Branch had achieved a 100 per cent. membership. Dr. R. Rutherford presided, supported by the Mayoress, Mrs. H. Duffy, Alderman W. North and Mrs. North, Mr. J. H. Stone, Newcastle; Mr. W. Johnson, chairman of the Branch, and Mrs. Johnson; Mr. C. E. Bradbury, Town Clerk, and Mrs. Bradbury; Mr. W. R. Pyle, Borough Treasurer; Mr. R. H. Storer, secretary, and Mrs. Storer. Councillor J. Mason, in proposing the toast of "The Association," referred to N.A.L.G.O as a "Help-one-another Society." Therein was the secret of its progress. Mr. H. J. Stone, replying, said Wallsend had given a lead to the County by obtaining a full membership.

WEST BROMWICH

At the annual general meeting of the West Bromwich Branch, Mr. J. R. Harrison, Education Department, was elected president; Mr. W. E. Veasey, Borough Treasurer, vice-president; and Mr. C. R. Hares, Chief Licences Clerk, hon. secretary. The annual dinner was held at the Sandwell Hotel on February 11. Mr. J. R. Harrison presided. Mr. W. E. Veasey, Borough Treasurer, informed the Corporation that their invitations to the function was a desire to foster the spirit of mutual trust and confidence, which was so often lacking between employer and employee. Councillor S. Crump proposed "N.A.L.G.O." The President responded.

WEST MIDDLESEX

The West Middlesex Branch held its January meeting at the Yiewsley Town Hall, this being the first occasion the assembly had met in this district. The members were welcomed by Councillor F. E. Dominey, J.P., Chairman of the Yiewsley and West Drayton U.D.C. Mr. J. Poole, vice-president of the Branch, acknowledged the kindness of Mr. Dominey and thanked the Council for the hospitality accorded the Branch.

WEST MIDLANDS

The annual meeting of the West Midlands District Committee was held at the Council House, Walsall, when the Mayor of Walsall gave a cordial welcome to the officers. The report showed that the activities of the District Committee had been well maintained throughout the year. Mr. G. C. V. Cant, Town Clerk of Dudley, was elected president, and thanks were accorded the retiring president, Mr. C. A. W. Wood, County Accountant of Staffordshire.

WEST SUSSEX

Success attended the "N.A.L.G.O." dance held on March 12 at the Dolphin Hotel, Chichester, by members and friends of the West Sussex Branch. There were 134 dancers and Mr. M. T. Hughes, the County Treasurer, officiated as M.C. The dance committee was under the chairmanship of Mr. J. E. Seager, the Deputy Clerk.

WIDNES

The efforts of Mr. Haden Corser, the D.O.S., have led to the fusion of the Runcorn R.D.C. staff with the Widnes Branch, to the mutual benefit of both sides. At the quarterly meeting of the augmented Branch Mr. P. T. Grove, Town Clerk, Widnes, was in the chair, members being welcomed by Councillor J. M. Holt, chairman of the Runcorn U.D. Council. With the addition of twelve enrolments made at the meeting, the membership stands at 116. The annual dinner of the Branch was held at the Central Hotel, Widnes, on February 28. Among the visitors were the Mayor of Widnes, Councillor John Travers, and the Mayoress, the Chairman of the Runcorn U.D.C. and Mrs. Holt, and representatives of the Branches at Warrington and St. Helens.

WORKINGTON

A supper and concert was provided at the Central Hotel on February 4 for the members of the Workington Branch. Mr. G. Hannah, Rating Department, with the help of Mr. H. Lightfoot, banjo; Mr. Varty, entertainer; Mr. J. Mounsey, tenor, and the trio, Messrs. Ogilvie, Eden and Skelton, made up a capital programme.

WILTS COUNTY

The Wilts County Branch entertained their friends from the Swindon and Salisbury Branches at Trowbridge on February 21. Following precedent, there was a football match, the home eleven securing a win by the odd goal in eleven. After the match the party sat down to tea under the chairmanship of Mr. E. W. H. Vallis, president of the County Branch.

WORKSOP

The first annual dinner of the recently formed Worksop Branch was held at the Station Hotel, Worksop, on March 5. The toast of "N.A.L.G.O." was proposed by Mr. A. Brunyee, Treasurer, and responded to by Mr. M. S. Mason, Electrical Engineer. Much appreciated was the musical programme arranged by Miss M. Froggart. It is hoped the interest in the Association will be stimulated and the Branch membership increased.

A TERRIBLE TASK

THE harsh clanging of the old town clock striking the hour of midnight could not disturb him. For the third time that week he had returned to the office. Sinister determination was in his eyes as he crouched at his desk, poring over documents. He was very young—too young, in fact, to carry out successfully any nefarious deed; and yet something about his manner suggested the super-criminal's painstaking care.

At times he leaned back in his chair and gazed fixedly before him in profound contemplation. A perpetual frown disfigured his young forehead. Still, with that look of inscrutable determination he referred to one document after another in feverish haste. Sometimes he would fix his eyes on the ceiling and mutter in a low voice, as if he tried to summarise the numerous details of his undertaking.

Suddenly a deep relieving sigh and a triumphant light in his eyes. He jumped from his chair and collected the mass of papers on his desk. The Junior in the Motor Licence Department had "found daylight" in the Transport Minister's Circular RV111679XYZ, *re* Subsection 12 (v)(d), Section 15, Part 2, of the Roads Act, 1930. W. S. E.

SCOTTISH NEWS

(By the District D.O.S.)

RUMOURS of impending reductions in salary have now taken concrete form in Lanarkshire. On March 11, Mr. Fox and the D.O.S. had an interview with the Staffing and Salaries Committee of the C.C. An excellent case was submitted and after the meeting there was a strong feeling that nothing more would be heard of the matter. Had a vote been taken there and then, it is probable that no cuts would have been recommended. The subject, however, was adjourned until the following Monday, and the Committee, it is understood, decided by a majority of one to recommend cuts. We maintain that cuts on the salaries of the transferred staffs cannot be made, and it so happens that in Lanarkshire about five-sixths of the staff are transferred officers. The recommendation will come before the C.C. early next month. It is very doubtful if the Council will accept the recommendation, but should they do so we shall have no alternative but to raise the question in the Courts. If it is possible for the C.C., as the Committee suggests, not only to take a 10 per cent. cut, but also to stop grade increments, then the provision in the compensation clauses to the effect that a transferred officer shall hold his office by the same tenure and on the same terms and conditions is quite meaningless. Elsewhere in Scotland there still persists rumours about reductions in salary, but nothing very definite has yet transpired.

EDINBURGH DINNER

The Edinburgh annual dinner, held in the Royal Hotel on February 20, was a success. Mr. A. P. Johnson, President of the Association, was in his best form and made a witty and telling speech. Bailie Ritchie, Mr. Hugh Begg, chairman of the Scottish Council, Bailie Gardner, Mr. Thomas Bishop, Dr. Guy, the Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. A. H. Macfarlane all addressed us, and Mr. McCartney, President of the Branch, was a genial chairman. Special mention ought to be made of Dr. Guy's speech. It sparkled with wit and humour and greatly delighted the audience. After the dinner there was a most enjoyable dance.

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The week following we had a visit from Mr. E. W. B. Abbott, Chairman of the Education Committee, and Mr. L. Hill, the General Secretary, concerning our Education Scheme. We had interviews with the authorities of Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities on the subject of the establishment by these Universities of a Diploma in Public Administration. At both places we were well received and there is likelihood of a round table conference being arranged.

SUMMER SCHOOL AND CONFERENCE

The arrangements made for the Scottish Summer School at St. Andrews University were discussed. The suggestion that we ask Mr. John C. Watson, K.C., Solicitor General, to open the School at the inaugural dinner on July 11, was approved.

Mr. Abbott and Mr. Hill had also a meeting with the officials of Edinburgh Branch regarding the arrangements for the Annual Conference. Some of the proposed arrangements were amended and it has now been decided to hold the church service on Sunday evening in St. Cuthbert's. It was felt that, on the whole, excellent arrangements for the conference were being made.

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Abbott and Mr. Hill next visited Stirling, where a splendid propaganda meeting with the staffs of the County Council was held and was productive of a substantial increase to the membership. Mr. Abbott and Mr. Hill gave an interesting account of the Association's work. The D.O.S. answered a number of questions, and at the close of the meeting there was cast a unanimous vote in favour of supporting us in our work.

GREENOCK BRANCH

The Greenock Branch held a successful whist drive and dance on March 6. The Provost and several members of the Council were present. Mr. A. H. Gray, Town Clerk Deputé, and President of the Branch, made an excellent chairman at the distribution of whist prizes.

NORTH ARGYLL BRANCH

On March 18 a meeting of the Branch was held at Oban, under the chairmanship of Dr. Guy. Before proceeding with the business, the chairman made reference to the lamented death of Dr. Gillies, the County Medical Officer. It was resolved to send a message of sympathy to Mrs. Gillies and the family. The business of the meeting chiefly concerned questions of compensation and transfer.

PLYMOUTH

The series of monthly whist drives and dances on behalf of the B. and O. Fund have resulted in additional benefit for the Fund. The annual dinner and dance was held on March 5 in the Royal Hotel Assembly Rooms and was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, the Town Clerk and other officers and about 150 members of the staff and friends.

LIFE INSURANCE

TEXT-BOOKS tell us that the first life assurance contract on the life of one man of which there is record was written on June 18, 1583, by and between a few merchants in London. More in the nature of a wager, it was the beginning of life insurance. To-day life assurance is the finest investment open to almost every person regardless of his means. It is one of the few investments which always appreciate. From the moment the first premium is paid £100 or more is added to a policyholder's estate. It is the most valuable asset he can possess, because if he dies it is cash, and if he lives he pays no direct taxes upon it.

An Endowment Policy acts in a dual capacity. If the policyholder dies it provides for his family, and if he lives it provides for himself. He must do one of three things during the term of the contract—die, live, or cease paying his premiums. If he dies his family receives £100; if he lives he will have made a good investment; and if he ceases to pay the premiums he can receive the surrender value of the policy, or accept a paid-up policy for a proportionate part of the original assurance on which no further premiums are payable. There is no other contingency he can provide against except physical disability, which is the subject of sickness insurance.

Having decided that everything is in favour of life assurance and there is no argument against it, the next step is to choose the Company. The obvious choice is a life office which can combine the maximum benefit with the minimum premium. N.A.L.G.O., through its insurance activities, is in a unique position to assure the lives of municipal officers. The rates of premiums are the lowest obtainable and the whole of the profits made on life assurance business is distributed amongst the life policyholders. N.A.L.G.O. is a life office, catering exclusively for municipal officers on a purely mutual business. There is no limit to the amount of a policy which can be issued and no medical examination is required for amounts up to £500.

Members of N.A.L.G.O. are invited to write stating their age next birthday, the amount of assurance required, and receive a quotation from the life office best suited to their requirements, to Logomia, Ltd., 24 Abingdon Street, S.W.1.

LEGISLATURE'S BURDEN

Speaking at the Newcastle-under-Lyme Branch annual dinner recently, Mr. S. E. Lovatt, Clerk to the Newcastle Assessment Committee, put forward the suggestion that no new legislation should be enacted for at least five years. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lovatt said, was appealing for economy. What about economy in legislation? For some years past the task of councillors and officials had been difficult, and it was getting more so. More than ever before, therefore, team work was called for. Through the N.A.L.G.O. the relations between council and officials had never been better than now. The public generally failed to appreciate that the local government service was the best in the world, but it was overloaded with work. Parliament kept on turning out Acts, and left local councils and their officials to administer them.

THE TOWN CLERK

Soul of the soulless he, and head
Of that which has no body;
Case-hard, he saves from being said
The false, "Our mayor's a noddy."
Comes there a suit with all agin it,
He'll don his wig, and sometimes win it.

The Caps of Vic he knows by heart,
All schedules of close seasons
Are open books, and he can part
A tort and misfeasance.
(Though you or I would still confound 'em
Served on a plate with parsley round 'em.)

Such power is his; but does he know
The need for letter-signing
By five o'clock? His hand is slow,
His down-strokes want defining.
Yet every fault with justice visit,
Local Authority—he *is* it!

Grade X.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS :
24 ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "B. & O.," "Provident," etc.

Telephone : Victoria 6056 (3 lines).
Telegrams : Natassoc, Parl., London.

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

EDINBURGH CONFERENCE, 1931

Draft Daily Programme

FRIDAY, MAY 22.—10 a.m., Annual Golf Competition, Mortonhall Golf Course; 10 a.m., Tennis Tournament; 2-30 p.m., Annual Bowling Match; 7-30 p.m., Reception by Lord Provost of Edinburgh, College of Art, Lauriston Place.

SATURDAY, MAY 23.—9-30 a.m., Conference Opening; 12-30 p.m., Adjournment of Conference; 12-45 p.m., Lunch given byNational Executive Council to local Conference Council; 2.30 p.m., Resumption of Conference; 4.15 p.m., Adjournment of Conference; 4-30 p.m., Annual meeting, Nalgo Provident Society, Conference Room, Synod Hall, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh; National Executive Council meeting at the Caledonian Hotel.

SUNDAY, MAY 24.—10.30 a.m., Delegates assemble on the Esplanade, The Castle, and thereafter proceed to view the Scottish National War Memorial; 11.30 a.m., Excursion by char-a-banc to the Scott country (Melrose, Dryburgh, etc.); 11-30 a.m., Excursion by char-a-banc to the Tweed Valley and Peebles. (Excursion parties leave Synod Hall, Castle Terrace. Arrive back in Edinburgh about 4.30 p.m.); 6 p.m., Delegates assemble at the Synod Hall, Castle Terrace, and walk in procession from there to Church service in St. Cuthbert's Parish Church.

MONDAY, MAY 25.—9.30 a.m., Resumption of Conference; 12.30 p.m., Adjournment of Conference; 12.45 p.m., Conference photograph; 2.30 p.m., Resumption of Conference; 8.0 p.m., Conference Dance at the Palais de Danse, Fountainbridge.

TUESDAY, MAY 26.—10 a.m., All day tour to Loch Lomond, returning via Aberfoyle and arriving back in Edinburgh about 8 p.m. The Glasgow Branch of N.A.L.G.O. has agreed to extend hospitality to delegates taking part in this tour. Char-a-bancs will depart from Synod Hall, Castle Terrace; 2.30 p.m., Afternoon tour to Linlithgow Palace (birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots), and Forth Bridge. The Glasgow Branch of N.A.L.G.O. has kindly agreed to extend hospitality to delegates participating in this tour. Char-a-bancs will leave from Synod Hall, Castle Terrace, and are expected to arrive back in Edinburgh about 6. p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Apr. 1.	Report of the N.E.C. to be issued, with Agenda, to representatives.
Apr. 15.	Amendments to motions in Conference Agenda to be received at Headquarters by 5 p.m.
Apr. 15.	Voting Papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of Branch Secretaries.
Apr. 23.	Voting Papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of members.
May 1.	Voting Papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of District Committee Secretaries by this date.
May 1.	Journal will contain amendments to motions in Conference Agenda.

NALGO CRUISE, 1931

BOOKINGS are coming in freely for the Association's cruise to Portugal, Morocco, and the Canary Islands, and those who desire a cruising holiday, with plenty of sunshine for a period of three weeks, should send the necessary deposit of £1 to secure a berth on the S.S. *Avoecta*, which will leave Liverpool on Saturday, July 25.

This is a one-class cruise for a party of 120 members and their friends. Once on board, there is no trouble with luggage. The ship is regarded as "home" by the passengers and calls are made in six ports, enabling the passengers to spend the greater part of nine days ashore. It is some time since the itinerary included Lisbon, and the call at Las Palmas, an island infrequently visited, is being made for the second time only. Lisbon is a fine city, much improvement having been made in recent years. Its squares and churches have always been famous, and those who make the excursion thence to Cintra and Pena Palace will spend a most enjoyable day. Casablanca is, in part, a modern French city. By contrast there is the walled Arab town, with its mosques, Moorish architecture, native costumes, primitive markets, transport, and customs, which

SCENE IN CASABLANCA

carries the mind back to the unchanging East. The return journey will commence from the Canary Islands, with their volcanic rock formation, notable for tropical vegetation and banana cultivation. Most of the passengers will be on the look-out to catch the impressive view of the Peak (12,000 ft.) as Orotava is approached. During movement from port to port, games, concerts, whist drives, and dances will cause the time to pass pleasantly.

At an inclusive cost of £25 (excursions optional and extra) a magnificent holiday is provided. Further details may be obtained from branch secretaries or from the General Secretary, 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

HEADQUARTERS APPOINTMENT

ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

Applications are invited for a position in the Accountant's Department of the National Association of Local Government Officers. The salary will commence at £300, rising by £15 to £360 per annum, subject to the deduction of 5 per cent. towards the Staff Superannuation Fund. Applicants must have passed the Examinations of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors. Applications, accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, to be received by the undersigned not later than April 15, 1931.

By order of the Council,
L. HILL.
General Secretary.

24 Abingdon Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.

PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION

OFFER TO ALL MEMBERS

SIR ARTHUR ROBINSON, G.C.B., C.B.E., Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, who opened the N.A.L.G.O. Summer School of 1930, has presented a prize of the value of £5 5s. for the best essay on one of the undermentioned subjects.

(1) The place of the Local Government Act, 1929, in the development of local government.
(2) The best method of training for the local government service.
(3) The relations between the local government official, his council and its committees.
(4) How and into what departments the work of a local authority may best be organised.
(5) The existing arrangements for co-ordinating the different branches of the work of a local authority and what, if any, improvements could be made.

The prize essay will form the basis of one of the informal meetings at the 1931 Oxford Summer School. Copies of the essay will be circulated to students enrolled, and if not already a student, the author will be invited to attend for that session. A general discussion on the subject of the essay will be taken, and the author will be given an opportunity of answering any points raised in the debate. If suitable size the essay will be published in LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

RULES.—(1) The competition is open to all members of the N.A.L.G.O. (2) The essay may be in manuscript, typewritten, or printed. (3) No stipulation is made as to length. (4) The final selection by Sir Arthur Robinson must be taken as conclusive. (5) Essays must reach the General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on or before July 1, 1931. (6) Each essay must be headed with the title chosen and a *nom de plume*. *A sealed* envelope containing the author's name, address, and branch and bearing on the outside his *nom de plume* must accompany the essay. Indication of the author's identity should not appear on the essay. (7) The result of the competition will be announced prior to July 25, 1931.

TRAVELLING FACILITIES

Arrangements have been made with the Railway Clearing House whereby the railway companies in Great Britain, with the exception of the Metropolitan, Metropolitan District, and London Electric Railway Companies, have agreed to issue tickets, available from May 20 to 28, at the ordinary single fare and one-third for the double journey (fractions of 3d. reckoned as 3d.), to delegates and friends travelling to Conference. Vouchers are being issued to the representatives appointed to attend the Conference. The voucher must be produced and surrendered at the local booking office, when the representatives book their tickets.

ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.—Feb. 20 : ORDER—Landing of Sheep; Quarantine Station. Feb. 20 : ORDER—Transhipment of Animals from Channel Islands. March 13 and 17 : ORDERS—Land Drainage Acts.

Home Office.—Feb. 28 : ORDER—Dolgelley Fairs. March 6 : ORDER—Employment of Women and others.

Board of Trade.—DRAFT ORDER—Merchandise Acts. March 4 : ORDER—Explosions in Coal Mines.

Privy Council.—March 5 : ORDERS—Merchandise Marks Acts. March 3 and 6 : ORDERS—Wild Birds Protection Acts.

Ministry of Transport.—March 11 : PROV. REGULATIONS—Road T. Act, 1930; Licensing of Drivers, etc.

National Health Insurance Committee. —Feb. 13 : PROV. REGULATIONS—Navy, Army, and Air Force Reg., 1928.

Ministry of Health.—March 6 : ORDER—Public Assistance (Casual Poor) Amending Public Assistance Order, 1930.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Editorial and Advertisement Offices, 3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Telephone: Holborn 2288-2289.

Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited, and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.

Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

APRIL 1931

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NOTES OF THE MONTH

EDINBURGH CONFERENCE

ATTENTION is drawn to some alterations in the programme of the Edinburgh Conference, which appears on the headquarters' notice page. One alteration concerns the time of the church service on Whit-Sunday. It will be observed that for the first time the church service will be held in the evening. This is due to special circumstances, the first owing to the General Assembly making a very heavy call upon the church accommodation in Edinburgh on the Sunday morning, and, secondly, because there is the prospect of the service at St. Cuthbert's being broadcast if held in the evening. Most of our readers who are listeners-in will have delightful memories of the services at St. Cuthbert's which are broadcast regularly, and this should be an added incentive to make the attendance a record.

The agendas, reports, and the various forms and papers connected with the Conference will shortly be dispatched to the appointed delegates. We appeal to all to reply promptly to everything which needs reply and, in particular, the form to be returned to Edinburgh to ensure that accommodation is reserved for the various functions and tours. It is not possible to make the necessary arrangements for everyone's comfort without adequate time, but we can all help to make it easier for the organisers by responding quickly to enquiries.

CONSOLIDATION

WHAT a ray of sunshine is the decision of the East Ham Corporation to consolidate the present bonus into salary. Here is a genuine effort to rise above pettifogging campaigns and to create an atmosphere of complete confidence between the officers and the Council. It is bound to pay the ratepayers of East Ham in the long run.

The report on the East Ham settlement, which appears in another part of this journal, should bring hope to thousands of local government officers. This is an illustration of what can be done with the Whitley machinery. It must not be assumed that the officers have not given up something to arrive at a mutually satisfactory settlement; neither must we overlook the courage, nor cease to admire the conviction of Councillor Burdon and his colleagues.

From various parts of the country we hear rumours of proposed salary cuts and the Association has already had to oppose certain definite proposals. But so far nothing serious has happened. The case for salary cuts is a bad one, and each local authority which tries to argue the point loses ground lamentably. Reduction is not logical; it is not fair. In fact, if cuts are made they will have to be effected without discrimination, feeling, or reflection upon the ultimate results. That any systematic reduction of salaries would create bitter disappointment amongst those who have laboured faithfully in the best interests of the community is a foregone conclusion. Happily there is reason to believe that only a few local authorities will venture a risk which is sure to be in the long run a grievous disadvantage to the ratepayers.

THE OFFICERS' HELP

AT the recent annual dinner of the Derby Branch, Alderman Raynes, M.P., said that he had had sufficient experience of public life to appreciate the services rendered by members of the Association. The municipal officers in Derby and throughout the country were a splendid body of men and women, and he believed that the officials were as anxious as the members of the Town Council that the well-being of the town should be conserved. The country was passing through an economic blizzard. Municipalities were being asked to co-operate with the Government in setting big works into operation and local government officers were being asked to apply their energies, their brains, and intelligence to the solution of these problems, and the response had been splendid.

The words of Alderman Raynes come at a time when very little good is being said of local government officers. Reverting to the point already made, it would be contrary to every tenet of good business to reduce the remuneration of men and women who are strained and harassed to the extreme in work of real national importance. The courage of members of N.A.L.G.O. must not be swept away by an avalanche of adverse criticism. Provided a united front is preserved, we shall pass safely through this economic crisis as we have emerged from others.

BRANCH ORGANISATION

THE Executive Committees of the county branches of N.A.L.G.O. have been, or are being, reconstituted to ensure adequate representation of transferred poor law officers. The Executive Committee of the Glamorgan County Officers' branch has had several conferences with representatives of the public assistance officers, and it has been agreed that the basis for the appointment of the Executive Committee should be one member from each department and each of the Guardians' Committee areas, and one additional representative where the membership of the department of Guardians' Committee area exceeds twenty-five. Glamorgan is divided into eight areas for public assistance work, and, in addition, it was agreed that five representatives should be appointed by the annual general meeting.

There is a Joint Advisory Committee of the County Council and the staff, which hitherto has consisted of five members of the staff and five members of the County Council. The Committee has, by arrangement with the Council, been increased to seven members from the Council and seven members from the staff, the additional two members from the Council being members of the Public Assistance Committee, and the two additional members on the staff side being public assistance officers.

The Association is recognised by the County Council as the only negotiable body. There are now two assistant secretaries, one being appointed from the public assistance officers.

ROCHDALE'S REPLY.—That in view of severe trade depression, the time is not considered opportune for the introduction of a superannuation scheme, is the reply of the Rochdale Corporation to the application of the local branch of N.A.L.G.O. for consideration of a scheme.

OFFICIAL VACANCIES

(Advertised in the "Municipal Journal" during March and still open for application at the time "Local Government Service" went to press.

The last day for receipt of applications is stated.

DURHAM (C.C.).—Clerk to Guardians Comt. April 1. App. Harold Jones, Clerk C.C., Shire Hall, Durham.

GLOUCESTER (C.C.).—County Accountant; 2nd Grade Clerk, March 31. App. E. T. Gardom, Clerk C.C., Shire Hall, Gloucester.

LIVERPOOL (C.B.).—Deputy Librarian, April 10. App. W. Moon, Town Clerk, Town Clerk's Office, Liverpool.

BARNES (U.D.C.).—Asst. Sanitary Inspector, April 2. App. W. T. Goodale, Clerk, Council House, High Street, Mortlake, S.W.14.

TWICKENHAM (B).—Asst. M.O.H., April 1. App. E. G. Stray, Town Clerk, Municipal Offices, Twickenham.

WIGSTON (U.D.C.).—Temp. Asst. Engineer's Office, April 4. App. W. H. Gunning, Clerk, Council Offices, Wigston, Leicestershire.

WANDSWORTH (B.C.).—3rd Class Clerk, April 11. App. D. A. Nicholl, Town Clerk, Council House, Wandsworth.

CAMBERWELL (B.C.).—Deputy Town Clerk, April 18. App. C. E. Newton, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Camberwell, S.E.5.

EARBY (U.D.C.).—Sanitary Insp., April 1. App. B. Hindle, Clerk, Council Offices, Earby.

YORK (C.B.).—Asst. San. Insp., April 8. App. F. Fishburn, Chief San. Insp. Health Dept., 50 Bootham, York.

WEYMOUTH (B).—M.O.H., April 2. App. P. Smallman, Town Clerk, Municipal Offices, Weymouth.

KINGSTON-UPON-HULL (C.B.)—Fish Insp. April 1. App. W. M. Frazer, M.O.H., Guildhall, Hull.

BOOTLE (C.B.).—Asst. Town Clerk, April 11. App. J. S. Tumilty, Town Clerk, Town Hall, [illegible]

W. RIDING (C.C.).—Asst. Solicitor, March 31. App. J. C. McGrath, Clerk of the Peace, County Hall, Wakefield.

WALLASEY (C.B.).—Town Planning Asst., April 13. App. L. St. G. Wilkinson, Boro. Eng., Town Hall, Wallasey.

WIGAN (C.B.).—Boro. Engineer, March 31. App. W. H. Tyrer, Town Clerk, Municipal Bldgs., Wigan.

DAGENHAM (U.D.C.).—Baths Superintendent and Attendants, April 4. App. F. W. Allen, Clerk Council Offices, Becontree Avenue, Chadwell Heath.

NEWPORT (C.B.).—Sanitary Inspector, April 6. App. J. H. Jones, M.O.H., Market Gldgs., Newport, Mon.

NEWPORT (C.B.).—Port Sanitary Authority Port Sanitary Insp., April 6. App. J. H. Jones, M.O.H., Market Bldgs., Newport, Mon.

WORKERS' TRAVEL ASSOCIATION.—The Workers' Travel Association's programme contains particulars of delightful holidays at prices well within the means of every purse. A unique and interesting feature is the special Rhine cruise arranged for August 8. The head office of the association is at Transport House, Smith Square, Westminster, S.W.1.

For particulars of the Sir Arthur Robinson Essay Competition in connection with the Summer School please refer to page 106.

MOVEMENTS OF MEMBERS

CHANGES AND PROMOTIONS

A WORD OF WARNING!

The occurrence referred to in a letter from headquarters addressed to branch secretaries on February 10, 1931, is of sufficient importance to justify its publication in these pages:

DEAR SIR (OR MADAM).

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SUPERANNUATION PURPOSES

At the last meeting of the National Executive Council attention was called to a case where an officer who had previously been contributing for superannuation purposes under authority "A" obtained another appointment under authority "B". The advertisement of the appointment stated that the successful candidate would be included in "B's" superannuation scheme, and that for that purpose he would be required to pass a medical examination. The officer was not medically examined until five months after he had taken up the new appointment, when he was certified unfit.

In view of this case, the Council decided to warn members of the Association as to the advisability of their undergoing medical examinations where required before actually resigning their positions to take up new appointments under other authorities.

I should be obliged if you would bring this warning to the notice of the members of your branch.—Yours faithfully,

L. HILL,
General Secretary.

Mr. C. Gordon, of the Town Clerk's Department at Bath, has obtained a post as General Clerk with the Eastbourne Corporation.

* * *

Mr. W. V. Cornish, late of the Bournemouth Branch, is now Cafes Manager under the Poole Council.

* * *

Mr. H. T. Hopper, General Clerk in the department of the Clerk and Solicitor of the Epsom Urban District Council, has accepted a Clerkship in the Cemetery Department of the Hampstead Metropolitan Borough Council.

* * *

Movements on the financial side of local administration include the appointment of Mr. Stanley Close (Hartlepool) as General Assistant, Treasurer's Department, Brentford; Mr. M. S. Bell (Blyth) to Oldbury; Mr. S. W. Sykes (West Riding C.C.) to Wallasey; Mr. C. Ledger (Bingley) to Haydock; Mr. G. H. Kaye (West Riding C.C.) to Bath.

* * *

Changes recorded by the D.O.S. for the North-west District are as follow: Mr. C. Ledger, Bingley, to Accountant at Haydock; Mr. W. Pickstone, Lancaster, to Wigan as Deputy Borough Surveyor; Mr. F. Wild, Stretford, Accountancy Assistant under the Kent C.C.; Mr. C. C. Carter, Wallasey, Housing Assistant at West Ham; Mr. A. L. Clegg, Bootle, to Bolton; Mr. W. Morris, Birkenhead, to Hull as Deputy City Engineer; Mr. S. W. Sykes, West Riding C.C., to Wallasey, as Assistant in Treasurer's Department.

* * *

The South-Eastern, Southern and South-Western districts record the following movements: Mr. C. Gordon, Bath, General Clerk to Eastbourne; Mr. C. Stanley-Johnson, Dorset C.C. Hon. Secretary, Education Secretary, Rutland C.C.; Mr. E. A. Aldred, Caterham and Warlingham, Engineering Assistant, Sutton and Cheam U.D.C.; Mr. W. J. C. Bailey, Portsmouth, Surrey C.C.; Mr. R. E. Normanton, Reading, Engineering Assistant, Stoke-on-Trent; Mr. J. E. Packer, Dorset Co., Audit Assistant, Norfolk C.C.; Mr. M. C. M. Tracy, Paignton and District, Engineering Assistant, Devon C.C.; Mr. Stanley Luckhurst, Canterbury, Assistant Clerk, Gainsborough Council; Mr. G. H[illegible] West Kent, Assistant Clerk, Wokingham R.D.C.; Mr. E. R. Granger, Bucks Co., Inspector Weights and Measures, Derby; Mr. W. H. G. Cocks, Bournemouth, Accountancy Assistant, Kent C.C.; Mr. G. S. Charlton, East Grinstead, Borough Treasurer, Congleton; Mr. F. W. Goodman, Brighton, Surveyor, Clitheroe Council.

Mr. H. Walsh, B.A., LL.B., B.Sc., Financial Assistant, Bucklow R.D.C., has been appointed Accountant to the Northwich U.D.C.

* * *

From a short list of five candidates, Mr. L. D. Blythe, of Northallerton, Yorks, has been appointed Grade "E" Clerk in the Public Health Department of Ilford B.C.

* * *

Mr. Herbert Flather has been appointed from the Education Department at Bradford to Director of Education, Pudsey.

* * *

Mr. W. C. Petree, of Wakefield, goes to Bootle as Architectural Assistant in charge of Housing Schemes, and Mr. D. M. Cowling, Rothwell and Ardsley, has been appointed Housing Manager at Hove.

* * *

Mr. C. Kent Wright, Deputy Town Clerk, Hampstead, has been appointed Town Clerk, Stoke Newington, in succession to Mr. Emrys Evans. Mr. Wright was formally at Manchester and Loughborough and was appointed to Hampstead in 1929.

* * *

Movement of other members are recorded as follow: Mr. J. W. Reed, Chelmsford, to Sanitary Inspector's Department, Surbiton; Miss E. K. Creswell, Kingston, to Chief Assistant Librarian, Surrey, C.C.; Mr. S. A. Gage, Kingston, to Engineering Assistant, Barnes; Mr. J. V. Cox, Norwich, to General Engineering Assistant, Ipswich; Mr. F. W. Bostock, Ilkeston, has been appointed to the post in the Borough Treasurer's Department, Richmond; Mr. A. Voyse[illegible] C.C., to Assistant Inspector and Agricultural Assistant, Kent C.C.; Mr. C. A. Wood, [illegible] to Chief Sanitary Inspector, Keighley

* * *

Mr. G. Muncur, Rotherham, has taken up his new duties as Chief Assistant in the Borough Engineer's Department at Peterborough. The Northumberland C.C. has appointed Mr. P. Lund, of Keighley, as Engineering Assistant. Mr. G. V. P[illegible] at Doncaster, has joined the Northern Division of the Ministry of Transport as Junior Engineering Assistant and Mr. J. N. Mercer, of Middlesbrough, has been appointed an Assistant Sanitary Superintendent at Bootle. The Harrogate Borough Council has appointed Mr. E. L. Butt, who goes to Bristol as Engineering Assistant. Mr. B. H. Bates, Architect under the Hull City Council, was late of the Kent County Council. Mr. J. Sutcliffe, of Huddersfield, has been appointed Borough [illegible]

N.A.L.G.O. SPORTS

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

SWINDON defeated Bucks by two goals to one at Whitley Road Recreation Ground, Reading, n February 28 in the semi-final of the Southern istrict Association Football Cup Competition. Swindon, who reached this stage of the com-etition for the first time, took advantage of the rong wind and pressed strongly. Good work y the defences kept both goals intact at the terval, after which Swindon gave the Bucks efence a trying time.

Swindon scored and Bucks equalised almost mediately, only to lose the hold on the game in e closing minutes.

Teams:

BUCKS COUNTY: H. Cruse; J. B. Robertson, C. L. onour; C. Hazell, E. L. J. Ryley, H. C. Spencer; W. G. esley, F. L. Clafton, E. J. W. Friday, A. T. C. North ptain, and P. A. Hayward.

SWINDON: J. Masters; L. Sharpe captain, J. E. Roberts; . Fisher, H. J. Timbrell, F. Allen; R. Bizley, C. Parker, E. Smith, R. L. Holloway, A. C. Weight.

Referee: Mr. W. Foxcroft, Reading.

The teams and supporters were the guests of e Reading Borough Branch in the evening. ea was provided in the club-room, Mr. A. E. obbs, Reading's president, presiding. After e meal, Mr. R. Davey, sports secretary of the outhern District, thanked the Reading mem-ers for their arrangements for the match and e tea, particularly Mr. E. J. Newland (secretary the Social Committee), who, unfortunately, as not present through illness, Mr. L. G. ovey (football secretary), and Misses Dix, alziel, and Smith. He also wished Swindon e best of luck in the final.

Inter-branch football has been hailed with thusiasm in many places where the facilities ist. Peterborough recently met Kettering at e former's ground, an enjoyable game resulting a win for the home side by seven goals to ur. A return game was thereupon arranged. fter the match the Kettering party were tertained to tea, the guests on that occasion eing Mr. J. Causton, Clerk, Kettering U.D.C., e representative of the East Midlands District n the National Executive Council.

BOWLS

The second annual reunion of N.A.L.G.O. owlers was held at the Clarence Restaurant, haring Cross, on Monday, March 1. The nnual general meeting of the section took place e same evening.

The Sectional Committee report issued to embers anticipates the future with confidence. uring the year under review interest in the ompetitions promoted by the section has been ener, the inter-district bowls matches marking further progressive step in N.A.L.G.O. sport-ng activities. Mr. T. F. Dunning, the sec-onal hon. secretary, makes forceful reference the absence of suitable rinks. He suggests —not for the first time—that an organisation with the strength and influence of N.A.L.G.O. should have its own sports ground. In this respect, Mr. Dunning mentions that a sub-committee is already considering the formulation of a scheme. The report records that thirty branches, as against twenty-nine last year, entered teams for the various competitions pro-moted by the section. Coulsdon and Purley, Finchley, Fulham, and Wealdstone were among the new entrants.

BILLIARDS

In the semi-finals of the North Western District Billiards Competition, played on Feb-ruary 28 at Manchester, Bolton beat Blackpool 567 to 517, Accrington beat Liverpool 575 to 452, and in the finals Accrington easily beat Bolton 1,165 to 991. Accrington thus retain the billiards teams trophy. In the individual competition Mr. J. J. Mather, of Accrington, beat Mr. E. Jolly, of Lytham, St. Annes, by 200 to 159, winning the trophy and the individual first prize.

OBITUARY

DR. P. H. GILLIES

The death occurred on February 15, of Dr. Patrick H. Gillies, Medical Officer of the County of Argyll. Dr. Gillies graduated M.B.C.M. at Edinburgh University and B.Sc. in Public Health. He was appointed School Medical Officer for Argyll in 1912, and County Medi-cal Officer in 1924. He was a supporter of N.A.L.G.O., and the association has lost a staunch friend. The North Argyll Branch has placed on record a sense of its sad and irreparable loss.

MR. H. G. ROWLEDGE

We regret to record the recent death of Mr. H. G. Rowledge, City Accountant, Peterborough, who, since the reformation of the Peterborough Branch, in 1922, held the office of hon. treasurer. Mr. Rowledge had been in the service of the Peterborough Corporation since 1887.

MR. R. MILLBURN

The funeral took place at Southport Cemetery, on March 9, of Mr. Richard Millburn, who for nine years was the honorary treasurer of the Southport Branch, a position he relinquished in October last, owing to failing health. His death came as a shock to the members of the local branch. Mr. Millburn will be remembered by many Nalgoites as the conference hon. treasurer during the time that gathering was held in Southport.

MRS. W. H. WHINNERAH

Deep sympathy is extended to Mr. W. H. Whinnerah, of Manchester, who is a member of the National Executive Council of N.A.L.G.O., representing the North-West District, in the recent death, in distressing circumstances, of his wife. Injuries received in a street accident con-tributed to her death. At a meeting of the N.E.C., in London, on Saturday, a vote of condolence was passed, the delegates remaining standing.

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THE BOOKSHELF

READERS' NOTES

By Jacob Tonson

RECOLLECTIONS of William Rothenstein, *Men and Memories*, Vol. 1, is much more than the mere chronicle of an artist's experiences. Commencing with his early days in Bradford in the 'seventies, and closing in 1900 shortly after his marriage, the volume is a record of intimate associations with Whistler, Augustus John, Wilde, Beerbohm, Conder, Legros, Meredith, and many others. It is a sheer delight, with never a dull passage; my regret is that I haven't space to quote from its pages.

* * *

The coming of a new book by Hugh Walpole is always a literary event, but when, as in *Above the Dark Circus*, the dedication is to a local government officer, it behoves me to notice it especially. Have my readers observed that in Walpole's books a lack of cohesion sometimes appears in the earlier chapters. One feels that he paints his characters as many modern pictures are put on canvas; that we need to view them from a distance to get the right perspective. But how intimate they become before the book is closed! This story which concerns strange happenings in a room overlooking Piccadilly Circus, is described by the author as an interlude between the two parts of *Rogue Herries*.

* * *

Among travel books, *Green Hell*, by J. Duguid, is outstanding. Travel books frequently lack grip, but this account of a journey through the forests of Eastern Bolivia contains many excellent descriptive passages and accounts of many adventures and much enthralling experience. The title bears reference to the passage through 150 miles of forest, entangled with undergrowth: its conquest, the anxious search for water, the blazing of a way through "the brooding grimness" which "hung over Green Hell," wonderfully if dangerously beautiful, are graphically depicted. One is reminded of Hood's haunting refrain which runs through *Haunted House*:

O'er all there hung a cloud of fear,
A sense of mystery the spirit daunted.

* * *

Gerald Hopkin's book, *An Angel in the House*, is remarkable for its setting rather than for its story, though it contains some clever character studies. The period covered is that usually taken by the serving of a dinner—the chapter headings representing the courses. It is as if one looked through an uncurtained window on a dinner party—the guests' outward calm give no indication of dramatic undercurrents, the husband's infatuation for the lady guest, his wife's realisation, the old friend of the family charmed with their apparent home happiness. A perfect piece of artistry.

* * *

Aldous Huxley's *Vulgarity in Literature* is entertaining. "In the handkerchiefless mental world we are at liberty to work things out to their logical conclusions." In that process Byron, Poe, Rolland, Balzac, and Dickens come under criticism. Poe's form is vulgar—not his substance. Byron protests his musical quality in loud and vulgar accents. Dickens is guilty of emotion and monstrous vulgarity. We close the book feeling that "logical conclusions" in literature leave no room for degrees in appreciation.

* * *

Discriminating readers must not miss *Morning Tide*, by N. M. Gunn. The book is a gem. The life of this Scottish fishing village is centred around three incidents in a boy's experience—the night of a great storm, his elder brother's departure to Australia, and the serious illness of his mother. The descriptive passages are well done and the mother is a sound study. "The first person to break the involuntary silence that followed the blessing was his mother. Any one speaking before her was inclined to do so in a whisper, for urgency of personal indulgence after communion with God was not seemly." "She had the natural air of dispensing life's mercies. Her movements were soothing and sufficient." Nor is the book without humour of the quieter type. "Then Cathie would be at the door with him—just outside the door, perhaps, to keep the draught from her father in the kitchen." I place this first amongst my "finds" of the month.

REVIEWS

The Speaker's Art. By William Shakespeare. Messrs. Putnam. London. Price 6s. net.

BY several standard works on voice production, Mr. Shakespeare has already established himself in the world of music and drama. To books on singing he now adds a valuable contribution to the art of elocution, which should be studied by all who aspire, not only to speak from the stage, but also from beside the dinner table and on the platform. Here is a technical book phrased in understandable language, and one which deals with every essential point concerning voice production and elocution. It has been praised and recommended by Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, Mr. Henry Ainley, and Sir Arthur Keith, and none could throw doubt on their capacity as judges.

The "Ideal" Interest Reckoner. By J. Gall Inglis, F.R.S.E. Gall & Inglis, 13 Henrietta Street, London, W.C.2. Price 7s. 6d.

THE recent narrowing of interest rates in the region of 5 per cent. has created a demand for a reckoner which gives direct calculations of interest at closer intervals than hitherto. After many years' preparation we have the "Ideal" Interest Tables, containing nearly 125,000 calculations of interest, with full 5 per cent. tables for every day of the year; tables for 4¼, 4½, 5½, 5¾, and 6 per cent.; and supplementary tables down to 3¼ per cent. and up to 7 per cent.

As this is the 104th reckoner issued by the firm,

[illegible]

A [illegible] lenges comparison with [illegible] but an attempt to review the whole subject of finance and accounts in one volume prevents that treatment of single subjects that is necessary for adequate study or practice.

The matter in this volume makes interesting reading and is well indexed (64 pages out of [illegible] but the author advances little that has not been said as well, if not better, by other writers. The arguments for and against "Equalisation Funds" for revenue and capital purposes are [illegible] provoking, and his logical statement of the theory and principles of double entry is a new method of approach. But not every accountant would be prepared to admit his claim that no clear exposition of principles can be found in works on Account keeping, or that Real Accounts, such as Cash, Stores, etc., should be classed as Personal Accounts.

The plea for the proper heading of accounts and the chapter on "Amendments Still Desirable," which closes Part I, certainly deserve attention, and the discussion of Ledger Problems should be helpful to the student. All things considered, however, the book is an expensive luxury, interesting reading for a municipal treasurer and useful, perhaps, to students for revision purposes, but of little use as a text-book.

A. B.

"City Manager" Year Book, 1931. The International City Managers' Association, Chicago. Price 2 dollars.

TO students of municipal administration the *City Manager Year Book* must take an important place in the up-to-date studies of public administration and technique. This year book is not of the ordinary type as we know them in this country. Its statistics and tabular information are confined to a minimum number of pages, the greater part of the rest being occupied by a reprint of the papers and addresses delivered at the seventeenth annual convention of the International City Managers' Association held at San Francisco, California, in September last. From these papers we get an excellent idea of the method of approach to the problems of local government in America, and the views of a number of serious students of the science of government.

The authors of the year book pay a tribute to N.A.L.G.O. by observations on the services of the Association. Mr. F. M. Stewart, Professor of Government at the University of Texas, writes: "It is a significant fact that in England the pressure for improved administration comes from within the Service, whereas with us it has generally come from outside the Public Service. In many respect N.A.L.G.O.'s extensive and useful activities should prove a stimulant to [illegible] Local Government Officials."

Nalgo Holiday Guide. The National Association of Local Government Officers, 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Price [illegible]

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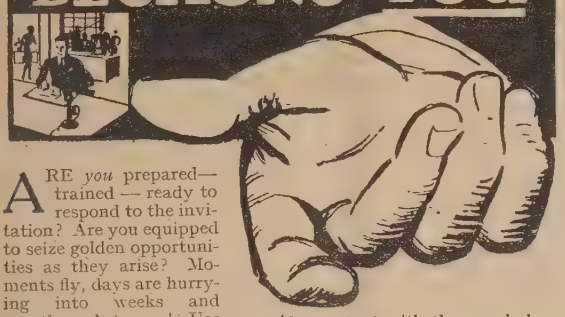

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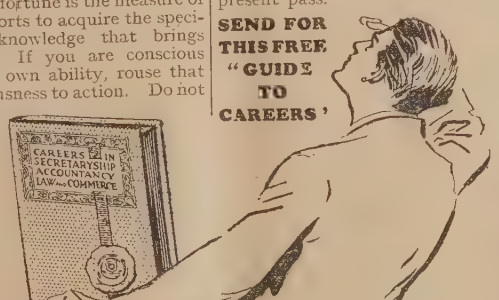

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REVALUATION IMPRESSIONS

Members of the recently formed Lancashire and Cheshire Students' Society of the Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers were present in large numbers to welcome the president of the association, Mr. F. J. Phillips, rating and valuation officer for the city of Bournemouth, at their meeting held at the Municipal Buildings, Liverpool, on March 6.

Mr. Phillips, in a paper entitled *Revaluation Impressions*, dealt with the principles which he had followed in carrying out the revaluation of the city of Bournemouth under the Rating and Valuation Act of 1925. He described the methods employed which, judged on the small number of proposals and objections against the list, proved satisfactory.

Mr. A.W. Balmer (rating and valuation officer, Manchester), the president of the Students' Society, who presided, expressed on behalf of those present, their thanks to Mr. Phillips for his interesting paper.

PONTYPRIDD AND RHONDDA

A branch dinner was held at the Park Hotel, Pontypridd, on February 20. Mr. F. Davies presided, and the company included Councillor Mark Harcombe, chairman of the Water Board, and Councillor W. H. May, vice-chairman.

CARMARTHEN

The Hon. Secretary of the Carmarthen Branch writes: "I have to inform you that at the quarterly meeting of this Branch held on March 7, it was unanimously resolved to extend heartiest congratulations to the National Executive Council on the vast improvement in the official journal. It is felt that the journal now reflects more worthily the status of the Association."

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AUCTION BRIDGE

By Neville Hobson

THERE were thirty-five entries for the competition announced in the March issue, and some of them were accompanied by letters according satisfaction at the introduction of a bridge column.

QUESTION 1

Score, N. and S. nil; W. and E. Game in and 18. S. deals and bids 1 No Trump, holding S. A.J.x. H. K.Q.10x. D. K.J.9. C. A.K.x W. and N.: No bid. E.: 2 Hearts. What should S. say?

ANSWER: Double.

The majority favoured 2 No Trumps. Even if the game should be won with 3 No Trumps, however, it would only result in the sides being Game All, and such a partial success is not so remunerative in practice as a reasonable probability of a gain of 300 (possibly 400) points in an unusually good double. Had this been rubber game, different considerations would arise. Moreover, there is always a chance of only 2 No Trumps being obtained, which would then leave N. and S. in a position much inferior to that derived from a substantial double. The best opportunity for a good double is when you are game in; the next best is when your opponents are similarly placed.

QUESTION 2:

Score, Game all. W. deals and holds: S. A.10, x, x. H. Q, x, x, x, x. D. A.O. C. x, x. What should W. declare?

ANSWER: One Heart.

This decision was not finally made until K had consulted two of the best known writers on Bridge in London, and they concurred in the view that it was probably the best of the available bids. The bid of 1 Spade (being a major suit) on only without the K.Q. and J. is liable to lead to trouble; 1 Diamond (on the basis of 2 quick tricks with one in Diamonds) is risky with only two of that suit; and No Trump is unlikely to be successful unless W's partner hold Clubs and can give some support in Hearts. The ultimate decision in favour of 1 Heart is dictated by there being five of this major suit with two outside Aces. If W's partner has no support in Hearts and bids Clubs, a No Trump is then indicated.

I have recently become a convert to the view that a bid of One of a major suit with five to the K. or Q. is effective in practice if the deficiency of quick tricks in the trump suit is made up by two outside Aces. The danger of waiting for an opportunity to bid Hearts in the second round arises from the risk of there being a pass all round.

QUESTION 3:

At rubber game, N. deals and holds: S. A, K, Q, x, x. H. A, K, x. D. x, x, x, C. K, x. What should N. declare?

ANSWER: One Spade.

A pre-emptive bid of 3 Spades is undesirable on five, notwithstanding the two quick tricks in Hearts. If the opposition bid up in Diamonds or Clubs, N. can go to 3 Spades—but he should give his partner an opportunity to bid before deciding as to the limit of his hand. With the A. K of Hearts available, the opposition is not likely to make game in a minor suit bid. Incidentally, so-called pre-emptive bids of 2 Spades only are undesirable.

QUESTION 4:

W. and E. Game in: E., as dealer, holds: S. J, 9. H. K, 10, D. A, K, Q, 10, x, x, x, C. x, x. What should he declare?

ANSWER: One Diamond.

With seven reasonably sure tricks in a minor suit and six outside cards of possibly little value, it is advisable to bid one Diamond and encourage a reply from one's partner, who will bid No Trumps or a major suit if practicable. If he should bid Clubs, a No Trump is indicated. The fundamental objection to pre-empting in Diamonds arises from its shutting out one's partner and committing oneself at the outset to a contract of eleven tricks if rubber game is to be won. In view of the fact that it has been calculated that a partial score below the line is only of direct value in winning a game in about one case out of five, it is important in the early stages to endeavour to get a minor suit bid taken out by one's partner into a major suit or No Trumps, particularly as—if the opponents should bid themselves—E. can go to 3 Diamonds (or even 4 or 5 if W. should make a bid).

QUESTION 5:

S. deals and bids No Trump in Rubber game. W. and N.: No Bid. E: 2 Hearts. S: 2 No Trumps. What should W. lead, holding: S. K, x, x, H. 10, x, D. A, Q, J, x, x, C. J, 10, x?

ANSWER: Queen of Diamonds.

This is a case in which W. should lead from his five suit containing three honours (sitting over the Declarer) rather than his partner's suit, in which the Declarer will probably hold two stops. Incidentally, the correct lead at No Trumps from A, Q, J, xx, is the Queen and not the fourth highest, which is the general rule.

QUESTION 6:

S. as Declarer is playing the hand in the first game at 4 Hearts doubled. E. revokes early in the game and S. draws attention to it immediately the trick is quitted, and E. admits the revoke.
S. gets his 4 Hearts and is proceeding to score without recollecting the admitted revoke. Dummy N. says to S., "What about the revoke. Are we to take 2 extra tricks?" S. says "Yes," and proceeds to claim 12 tricks doubled.
1 Does Dummy's reference to the agreed revoke entitle W. and E. to claim that any penalty lapses?
2 Assuming that the penalties for the revoke have not been affected in any way, what is the maximum total including bonuses which S. can score holding 4 honours in one hand?
a Above the line?
b Below the line?

ANSWER: (1) No.

While Dummy cannot claim a revoke, he may mention that his partner has previously claimed a revoke and that it has been admitted and may participate in a discussion regarding the form of the penalty.

The material Laws relative to the points to be scored by the Declarer in the event of a revoke are No. 24 (which doubles the value of each odd trick when the bid has been doubled, and prescribes that, for the purposes of this Law, tricks taken for the revoke penalty rank as tricks won); No. 25 (which states that tricks taken for the revoke penalty do not rank as tricks won for the purpose of the bonus for over-tricks after being doubled); and No. 28 (which prescribes that tricks taken for a revoke penalty do not ranks as tricks won for the purpose of the slam bonus). Law 53 empowers the Declarer to elect to take two tricks and add them to his own in lieu of the alternative bonus of 100 points, and competitors should note that the old penalty of three extra tricks has now been reduced to two by the Laws which came into operation about two years ago.

The combined effect of the above is to give to S. as Declarer (*a*) 114 points above the line (i.e. 50 for contract and 64 for eight times honours), and (*b*) 96 below the line (i.e., six tricks in Hearts doubled).

AWARDS

The first prize, a copy of *The Play of the Cards*, by Frank England and Hope Reford, has been awarded to Mr. W. J. Heigho, Technical College, East Ham. The three additional prizes, two packs of "New Era" (concave) Playing Cards, go to Mr. J. D. Ritchie, Surbiton; Mr. H. W. Parr, Norwich; and Mr. D. Macrae, Glasgow. The following were one point behind the prize-winners: Messrs. J. R. Parkinson, W. Ashton, A. W. A. Collier and E. P. Everest.

In the next issue I propose to consider the principles of Bidding and indicate the general rules which have now been accepted in the leading clubs in England and America. After all, the acid test as to whether a particular system of bidding is sound or not depends upon experience in play, and I have reason to believe that the answers given to the problems set conform to the generally accepted views in the main London clubs.

BATH BRANCH

The Bath Branch of N.A.L.G.O. presented Mr. Claude Gordon, Town Clerk's department, with a leather suitcase upon his departure to take up new duties under the Eastbourne Corporation. Mr. Gordon was honorary secretary of the Branch football and savings sections. The honorary secretary of this Branch thanks those secretaries who replied to his circular letter on the subject of Holiday Grading Scale. The information supplied meets the requirements admirably.

UNIVERSITY DEGREES

By T. Ruffe-Williams (Treasurers' Department, Newport, Mon.)

THE modern tendency towards higher education has not been overlooked by members of the various branches of municipal service. Each branch has its institute and its policy of fostering specialisation and increasing efficiency within the limits of its own professional sphere by examinations and propaganda. At the same time, there is a growing body of opinion that municipal work has reached a stage when it should be directed by men qualified by something more than mere departmental specialization, in order that local administration may develop along broad lines.

Particularly in regard to the finance department of local government the idea has been expressed that university graduates should enter the service of local authorities when they are from twenty-two to twenty-four years of age and, passing over the heads of men with considerable experience, enter a special grade as trainees for the higher positions in financial administration. It is argued that the man whose training has consisted of wide reading, scientifically directed, is not only as capable of learning the higher routine of a municipal treasurer's office as the junior clerk whose training has been received in the office itself, but in addition, so it is claimed, the university graduate is better fitted to grasp the essential principles underlying the routine and to grapple with the broader problems of policy which increasingly engage the attention of chief financial officers.

EXTERNAL STUDENTS

But it should not be forgotten that the doors of London University are open to external students and that municipal officers and others can graduate by passing examinations only. There are no restrictions as to residence at a college, and academic training can be combined with actual office experience. And yet it is safe to say that because London University has gained a reputation as the most exacting university in the world, its degrees carry more weight than those of any other university.

To the financial student the London degree of Bachelor of Commerce is the finest qualification obtainable. There is no space here to give details of the syllabus, which is amazingly comprehensive and, at the same time, concentrated and practical. A preparation for its examinations should open up to the fertile mind just those broader avenues of thought and knowledge which municipal finance seems to require. The profession offers wonderful prospects to the well-qualified official. But if current professional interests are to be adequately safeguarded, there must be produced from the ranks of the service a body of men with academic qualifications, as well as practical experience.

GARDENING NOTES

By WALTER P. WRIGHT.

GOOD MORNING, amateur gardeners! Time to start work. Here is a hint to begin with; some of us recently put our heads together, concocted a fertiliser mixture, agreed to take quantities ranging from ¼ cwt. to 2 cwt. each, according to requirements, and were able to get it from a reliable firm at approximately a penny a pound. Too good to be true? Not a bit of it. We got it; we are using it, we have paid for it! This is the mixture, the figures representing proportions by weight: 3 superphosphate of lime, 1 each sulphate of ammonia and sulphate of potash, and ¼ steamed bone flour. We obtained the ingredients separately and mixed them ourselves. Broadcast on vegetable ground, on flower borders and around fruit trees, 5 to per sq. rod.

* * *

The "Coltness" dahlias had a wonderful success last year. Of course, they liked the rainy season, and may not be so well suited this year; still, we must try. Their continuity in producing loads of beautiful bloom for the better part of six months borders on the marvellous. Deep, rich soil and water as needed will do wonders in a dry season. I would not trust to seed now, but get plants in pots sooner or later, according to frame accommodation. "Coltness Gem," "Pink Coltness," and "White Coltness" are all first-rate; height about eighteen inches, including flower stems.

* * *

Among good garden peas to sow I might mention "English Wonder" for an early, "Senator" for a mid-season, and "Gladstone" for a late. Substitutes in each section are "Pioneer," "Kelvedon Wonder," and "Autocrat." There is little to choose.

* * *

I notice that the quantity of grass seed recommended to be sown has steadily risen during recent years. but if you do your ground well, and also keep off birds, 1 to 1¼ lb. is ample. Be sure to get a fine tilth, to roll well, to scratch over very lightly with the rake, and then to sow after rain in April. A very light covering of fine soil, a good rolling, and a very, very gentle scratching with the rake (not bringing up the seed) will complete the job.

* * *

Order soon if you are buying young seedling or cutting plants from nurseries. Here are a few good things:—antirrhinums, aquilegias, China asters, calendulas ("Radio," etc.), calceolarias (bedding), chrysanthemums, clarkias, cosmeas, dahlias, delphiniums ("Blue Butterfly," etc.), gaillardias ("The King," "Lady Rolleston," etc.), geums ("Mrs. H. Bradshaw," "Lady Stratheden"), godetias, lupins, marigolds, mimulus, nemesias, nicotianas, pentstemons, phlox Drummondii varieties, polyanthuses, primroses, salvias, ("Harbinger," etc.), scabious, statice, salpiglossis, stocks, sweet peas, tagetes, verbenas, violas, zinnias (tender).

* * *

Of course, many are raising their own supplies from seed, but it is well to know that young seedling and cutting plants are available. The tip is not to buy many of each, but to have some small, shallow boxes (15 in. by 9 in. by 3 in. is a useful size) and a frame or set of cloches ready, set the young plants firmly in at eleven (not more) plants per box, and keep under glass till wanted. Thinly set like this, the plants become almost as sturdy and good as plants potted singly, and there is great economy in pots, soil and frame room. Plant in May and June.

* * *

Make an exception of sweet peas if convenient, using either ordinary pots or the special seed "raisers" advertised in gardening papers. Pinch out the tops of the plants at, say, 4 in. high. Set small twigs in if planting is delayed.

* * *

Rose-pruning is a bugbear to many, because of the conflicting opinions of experts. Exhibitors are nearly all hard pruners and disbudders. Leave them to it. For ordinary garden purposes prune medium growers to about six buds of the base of each side shoot, and strong growers to twelve. The thickness of the shoots gives a clue to the vigour. The middle to end of April is generally suitable. Cut out the old hide-bound canes of pillar roses and tie in the younger.

* * *

Split up the rootstocks of most herbaceous plants in April every other year at the most, scrapping the central parts and replanting the outer portions after deep digging (with manure, if available). Give particular attention to pyrethrums (early bloom), lupins and paeonies (early to mid-season), phloxes and delphiniums (mid-

[illegible]

* * *

Now is the time to plant alpines out of [illegible]. Some of them may be in or nearly in bloom. [illegible]. With attention they will thrive. Do [illegible] alyssums, androsaces, [illegible], aubrietias, campanulas, dianthuses (pinks), [illegible]tians, helianthemums (sun roses), iberis [illegible] candytuft), phloxes, primulas and saxifrages. I hope to make some special remarks on alpines in due course.

* * *

Brief Mems: Vegetables—sow peas, onions, carrots, spinach beet, dwarf kidney beans (end of month), beet (Globe, mid-month), leeks, greens for autumn and winter, lettuces, radishes, celery (glass) and vegetable marrows (glass). Plant potatoes; Sharpe's Express (early) and Great Scot (second-early) are good. Prick off tomatoes. Get sticks for peas and poles for runner beans. Plant asparagus, seakale and rhubarb, taking care the rootstocks do not get dry. Put covers over early rhubarb. Plant out box onions towards the end of April.

* * *

Brief Mems: Flowers—sow hardy annuals at the middle or end of the month if the soil is right. Remember the following: bartonia, calliopsis (coreopsis), Drummondii candytuft, chrysanthemums, clarkias, collinsia bicolor, cornflowers, eschscholtzias, evening primroses, godetias, gypsophila (elegans), larkspurs, lavateras, limnanthes, linum, mignonette, nasturtiums, nemophilas, nigella, night-scented stock, phacelia, poppies, saponaria, sunflower, sweet peas (see above) sweet sultan, Virginian stock and viscaria. Prick-off half-hardy annuals sown in March.

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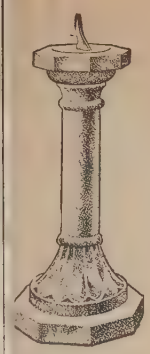

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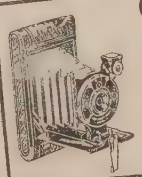

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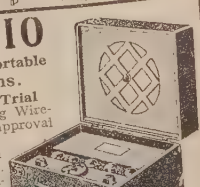

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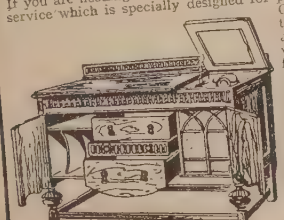

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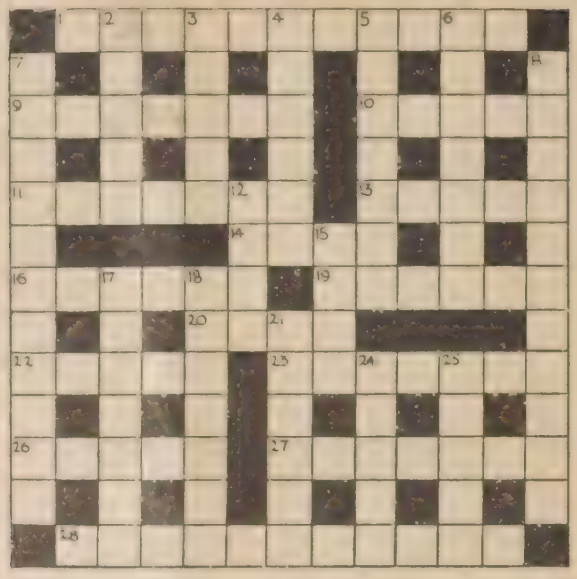

CLUES, ACROSS

1. Try alibi, Eli, at this trial.
9. U as axle is sexless.
10. Shakespeare would anoint with it, but a Cockney might say it was no insinuation.
11. Suite.
Ike in a little hour becomes a walker.
14. Here is a Saint whichever way you look, and there is more in him too.
16. Food and drink are found here, but they have a misty appearance.
19. More drink can be obtained here, though it is enclosed in nothing.
20. There's a lot here, though it is only a part
22. Marco is here, though he did not disco this French Territory.
23. An Eastern language.
26. If this were less, it would be unfettered.
27. Call in the sop for a shell-fish.
28. This quality of man produces a cut in my s

CLUES, DOWN

2. A consul is chosen before this, but not office.
3. To place in itself.
4. "There was gorging Jack and guzzli Jimmy,
And the youngest he was little. . . ."
5. With this lengthy spring a bowler is expecte
6. Brainworker who sounds like an emaciat mongrel.
7. My cap is torn (anag).
8. You will find room for opportunity at t end of this double-lensed instrument.
12. Handwriting on these mountains would ma them biblical.
15. When broad, this is not a desirable resident
17. This poor girl has a double obstruction to h name.
18. Concise.
21. As often talked about, but as seldom se (hidden).
24. Once more I make a profit.
25. And here parcel out rather more than a k

SOLUTION: MARCH

ACROSS.—1, Parliaments; 9, Adaman 10, Tempe; 11, Demeter; 13, Rarer; 14, Lyr 16, Diadem; 19, Ediles; 20, Node; 22, Thin 23, Edition; 26, Realm; 27, Pliable; 28, Ele tioneer.

DOWN.—2, Alarm; 3, Least; 4, Arter 5, Entered; 6, Timbrel; 7, Candidature; Represented; 12, Elmo; 15, Reed; 17, Abiga 18, Endemic; 21, Delphi; 24, Ixion; 25, Imbu

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on

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LECTURES

The Development of Local Government in County Areas
MR. W. HYDE (Vice-Chairman, Oxfordshire County Council Public Assistance Committee)

The Work of a County Council
MR. W. HYDE

Some Tendencies in Local Government
MR. W. HYDE

Public Assistance and the Poor Law
MISS K. STEPHENSON (Chairman, Public Health Committee, Wilts County Council).

Local Government in Cities
MR. W. BYNG KENRICK (Alderman of the City of Birmingham and formerly Lord Mayor).

The Work of a Rural District Council
SIR SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, K.B.E. (Member of Royal Commission on Local Government).

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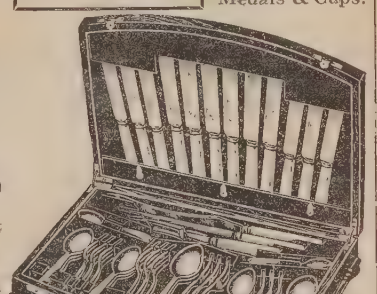

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LIVERPOOL CORPORATION

The Corporation has now decided to relinquish its Certificate of Exception from National Health Insurance as from July 1, 1930. As a result 1,000 employees will be subject to compulsory State insurance and have to join an approved society. Many are joining the Nalgo Approved Society, which caters exclusively for municipal officers and offers a wide range of additional benefits. Applications should be made to Mr. L. M. Cain, Treasurers' Audit Department, Municipal Buildings, Liverpool.

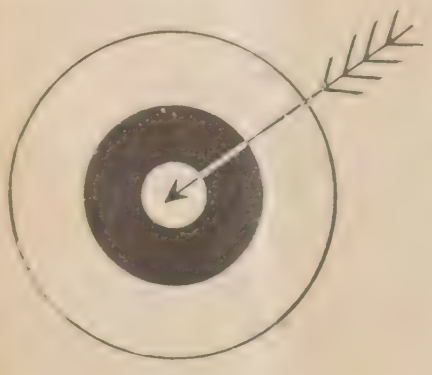
GLOUCESTER CITY TREASURER

THE City Treasurer of Gloucester, M. A. Clutterbuck, F.S.A.A., F.I.M.I.A., [illegible] connected 42½ years with the Corporation [illegible] this service forty years have been spent as C[illegible] Financial Officer. Mr. Clutterbuck [illegible] has shown his interest by attending to [illegible] the Guildhall, the Municipal Council and [illegible] of the Corporation, and officials and [illegible] the evening was a whole of the corporation staff, a[illegible] many personal friends.

The after-dinner speeches testified to t[illegible] splendid work of Mr. Clutterbuck, his excep[illegible] tional ability, and the great measure of confidenc[illegible] which the Council had in him. He was t[illegible] recipient of a gold watch and an illuminat[illegible] address under the seal of the Council as [illegible] appreciation of his long and faithful service an[illegible] tribute to the complete harmony existing betwe[illegible] him and the Council. From his colleagues in t[illegible] local branch of N.A.L.G.O.—he is this yea[illegible] President—Mr. Clutterbuck received the gift [illegible] an all-mains wireless set.

The annual dinner of the Gloucester bran[illegible] was held at the Guildhall on February 12. M[illegible] A. B. Clutterbuck was in the chair and the bran[illegible] had as their guests Councillor W. R. Eggleto[illegible] the Mayor; Alderman D. Smith, the depu[illegible] Mayor; Councillor S. J. Gillett, ex-Mayo[illegible] Councillors Harmer and Elias, and the presid[illegible] of the Cheltenham Branch. A musical program[illegible] was provided by members of the staff, Mr. G. [illegible] McIntire, the Town Clerk; Mr. R. Wal[illegible] Assistant Town Clerk; Mr. Reg. Morgan a[illegible] Mr. E. W. Alder. Alderman W. C. Matth[illegible] figured in the programme. Mr. E. H. Parso[illegible] was the accompanist.

On March 5, the Gloucester City Branch [illegible] charity ball in aid of the B. and O. Fund [illegible] the Guildhall, the ballroom of which had b[illegible] tastefully decorated with the association colo[illegible] This was largely the work of an energetic s[illegible] committee. The ball was a success and a g[illegible] balance will be available.



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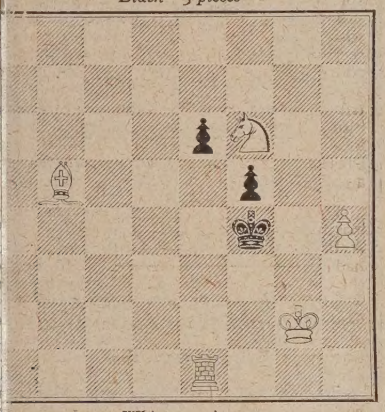
THE GAME OF CHESS

By ANSELMO LOPEZ

Fantastic scenes of mimic war I sing,
Undaunted warriors and a routed king;
How two mock realms, their glory to maintain,
Marshal their squadrons on the checkered plain."
ARCHBISHOP VIDA (*translation by Goldsmith*).

PROBLEMS No. 4 (by W. J. Wood)

Black—3 pieces



White—5 pieces

White to move and mate in three moves

DR. LASKER RETIRES

In reply to a correspondent who asked whether had given up over-the-board play Dr. Lasker said: "Yes. The organisation of the chess rld at present is not favourable to that small up of men that I call the Creative Masters. nce I had cause to devote myself to other upations which now consume all my time and ention." The announcement is one which the ole chess world will regret to hear; for no ater chess brain has existed than that of the strious mathematician, and no master who has ie more for chess by voice and pen since the s of Ruy Lopez. Dr. Lasker is only sixty-two, l it may, therefore, be hoped that his decision retire from the active field may turn out not to absolutely final.

THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The most important event of the moment in the ss world is Alekhine's acceptance of Capamca's challenge for a return match for the ampionship of the World.

t is likely that the match will take place within ear from now. The venue will depend upon purse, which will be, at least, £2,000. A few es of the U.S.A. will, no doubt, gladly raise is amount between them and have the consent right in regard to the games.

There is a strong feeling in the chess world t the International Chess Federation should e complete charge of the World Championp and lay down definitely and clearly rules and ulations by which holders and challengers are be governed for the future. A big step in this ection was taken at the London International ngress of 1922, but a much bigger step is ently called for in the best interests of the yal game.

Here is one of the games played between khine and Capablanca in their mighty counter of 1927:—

QP Opening.

	WHITE CAPABLANCA	BLACK ALEKHINE
1.	P—Q4	P—Q4
2.	P—QB4	P—K3
3.	Kt—QB3	Kt—KB3
4.	B—Kt5	QKt—Q2
5.	P—K3	B—K2
6.	Kt—KB3	Castles
7.	R—B sq	P—QR3
8.	P—QR3	P—KR3
9.	B—R4	P×P
10.	B×P	P—QKt4
11.	B—K2	B—Kt2
12.	Castles	P—B4
13.	P×P	Kt×P
14.	Kt—Q4	QR—B sq
15.	P—QKt4	Kt(B4)—Q2
16.	B—Kt3	Kt—Kt3
17.	Q—Kt3	Kt(B3)—Q4
18.	B—B3	R—B5
19.	Kt—K4	Q—B sq
20.	R×R	Kt×R
21.	R—B sq	Q—R sq
22.	Kt—B3	R—B sq
23.	Kt×Kt	B×Kt
24.	B×B	Q×B
25.	P—QR4	B—B3
26.	Kt—B3	B—Kt7
27.	R—K sq	R—Q sq
28.	P×P	P×P
29.	P—KR3	P—K4
30.	R—Kt sq	P—K5
31.	Kt—Q4	B×Kt
32.	R—Q sq	Kt×P
33.	Resigns.	

END GAME No. 4

White (4 pieces)—K on KR6, Pawns on KKt7, KB6 and K7.

Black (2 pieces)—K on KKt sq, B on K sq.

White to play and win.

BRIEF BRILLIANCES, No. 4.

QP Opening.

WHITE		BLACK
1.	P—Q4	Kt—KB3
2.	Kt—KB3	P—Q4
3.	P—B4	P—K3
4.	B—Kt5	QKt—Q2
5.	P—K3	B—Kt5 ch
6.	QKt—Q2	P—B3
7.	P—QR3	B—K2
8.	B—Q3	Castles
9.	Castles	P×P
10.	Kt×P	Kt—Q4
11.	B×B	Q×B
12.	Q—B2	P—KR3
13.	KKt—K5	R—Q sq
14.	B—R7 ch	K—R sq
15.	B—Kt6	R—B sq
16.	B×P	Resigns.

From an Austrian Tournament.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM No. 4 (3-mover by W. J. Wood).

Key, B—Q7.

1, P—K4; 2, R—K4 ch, P×R; 3, Kt—Q5 mate.

Comment.—Lacking, of course, in variety, but delightful and fairly difficult; a very skilful composition, with a surprising sacrifice.

SOLUTION TO END GAME No. 4.

WHITE		BLACK
1.	K—Kt5	K—B2
2.	K—B5	B—Q2 ch
3.	K—K5	B—R5
4.	K—Q6	B—Kt4
5.	K—B7	B—R5
6.	K—Q8	B—Kt4
7.	P—K8 (Q) ch	B×Q
8.	P—Kt8 (Q) ch	Q×Q
9.	K×B	

OXFORD V. CAMBRIDGE

The annual meeting between chess teams of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge—the 55th of the series—took place on March 21, at the City of London Club. There were as usual seven boards, and the result was a draw—3½ games on each side. The score for the whole 55 matches stands now:—Cambridge, 25 wins; Oxford, 24 wins; draws, 6.

PULLINGER CHESS CUP COMPETITION 1930-31

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In the Nalgo Correspondence Chess Competition for the "Pullinger" Chess Cup, 1930-31, which commenced on September 4, 1930, the following six branches entered: Bootle, Bradford, Hastings, Kensington, Southwark, West Riding; three boards a side being played in each Match. In the first round Bradford beat West Riding by 2-1; Kensington beat Bootle, 3-0; and Southwark beat Hastings (after adjudication), 2½-½. The adjudication of the games was carried out by the official adjudicator of the London Chess League.

The second round commenced at the end of November, 1930, between Southwark and Kensington, Bradford obtaining a bye.

The final match commenced on February 28 and will terminate on May 16. The "Pullinger" Cup will be presented to the winning team at the Annual Conference at Edinburgh at Whitsun.

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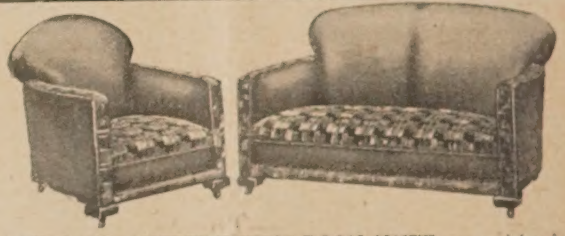

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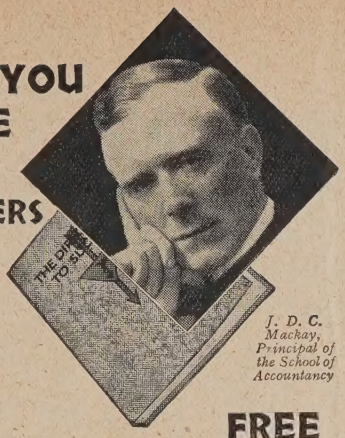

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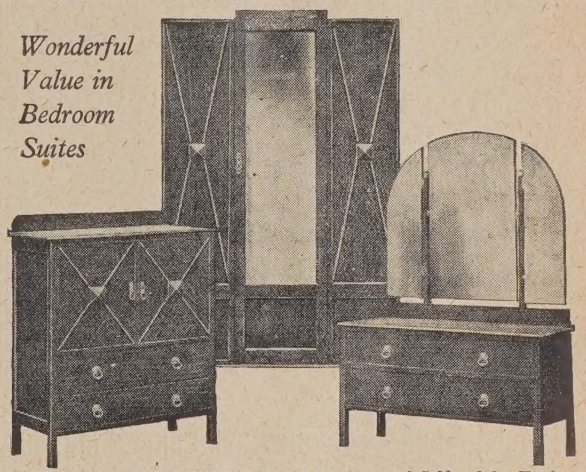

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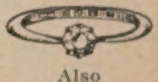

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